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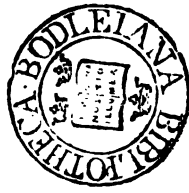






The  
Perustration of Great Harmonth.





THE

# Perustration

OF

# GREAT YARMOUTH,

WITH

GORLESTON AND SOUTHTOWN:

BY

CHARLES JOHN PALMER, F.S.A.

---

"I pray you—satisfy your mind

"With the memorials of the things of fame

"Which do renown this Borough."

---

VOL. I.

Great Yarmouth:

PRINTED, AND PUBLISHED BY SUBSCRIPTION, BY  
GEORGE NALL, 182, KING STREET, MARKET PLACE.

1872.

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*Gough Add! Norfolk.  
L. 30.*



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## PREFATORY NOTE.

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SOUTHEY once humorously said "how much more accurate, and  
"perhaps a thousand years hence, more valuable, a book it would be,  
"were I to write the *History of Wine Street below the Pump*, the street  
"wherein I was born, recording the revolutions of every house. It  
"almost startles me to see how the events of private life, *et quorum*  
"*pars maxima*, &c. equal or undo novel and comedy; and the conclusion  
"to each tale—the *more omnibus est communis*—makes me more serious  
"than the sight of my own grey hairs. Oh! there would be matter  
"for moralizing in such a history, beyond all that history offers."\*

Long before meeting with this passage it had been in the mind  
of the Author that an Old Town like Yarmouth afforded materials from  
which an amusing and interesting book might be compiled.

By identifying such ancient houses as remain, and the sites of  
others which have long disappeared, with their former owners, it  
seemed to him that an opportunity would be afforded of noticing most  
of the inhabitants who, for any cause whatever, ought to be had in  
remembrance.

There is nothing more interesting to a family than a knowledge  
of their lineage. If this be a weakness it is an amiable one; and has

\* Southey's *Life*, vol. iii. p. 32.

prevailed in all countries and among all communities. The author has therefore determined to write such a history as Southey suggested.

In speaking of those who are gone he hopes to observe the maxim (derived from the law of Solon) *De mortuis nil nisi bonum*, as far as is consistent with historical accuracy, and he says to his readers, in the words of the old Rhymster—

"Make me right and be not wrothe ;

"For I say nothing but the trothe."

Every place memorable in local history will be mentioned ; and the incidents adduced will illustrate, collaterally, historical events, and reveal many curious customs and usages observed in social life in times now passed away for ever.

Quotations from the Diary of Dean Davis, printed for the members of the Camden Society, and from the manuscript journals of Ives, (the father of the antiquary) and Syllas Neville, will throw much light upon the domestic manners and political opinions prevalent in the 17th and 18th centuries.

The rapid rise, fall, and succession of families will not be without a moral. Many of these, once numerous, rich, and powerful, have become utterly extinct, for

" 'Tis the curse

"Of great estates to want those pledges, which

"The poor are happy in.—They, in a cottage,

"With joy behold the models of their youth :

"And as their root decays, those budding branches

"Sprout out and flourish, to renew their age."—BEAUMONT.

We are thus called upon to remember

"the past

"Big with deep warnings of the proper tenure,

"By which we hold the earth."

It is proposed to take the reader up and down the Rows of Yarmouth; to walk with him through the STREETS and PLAINS of the *Old Town* within the Walls; to perambulate the ROADS which intersect the *New Town* without the Walls; and to extend our survey through the hamlet of SOUTHTOWN, COBBAM ISLAND, and the Town of GORLESTON; all being within the Municipal Borough.

Such a work the Author is aware, can possess but little interest for the general reader; and yet, as Sir William Temple remarks, "Relations of matters-of-fact have a value from their substance as much as from their form; and the variety of events is seldom without entertainment or instruction, how indifferently soever the tale is told."

The SIGNS of PUBLIC HOUSES, are to a certain extent, Signs of the Times—that is—they indicate the popular feeling which prevailed when they were displayed. They were put up to distinguish the House at a distance, and of making it known to those who could not read; and these constituted, during the middle ages, a vast majority of the people. They were the advertisements of the day.

Before the Reformation these signs had frequently an ecclesiastical or a religious tendency; and some of these have come down to our times. Others were taken from the conizance, badge or crest of some powerful or popular noble. Subsequently the public were attracted by the name of some famous admiral or successful general, whilst the members of different trades were invited by peculiar and appropriate symbols.\*

\* It was formerly the custom in this, as in all other towns, to paint on the door posts of every public House a square of red and white compartments like a chess board. This was a very ancient symbol extending so far back as the Roman empire; but its meaning at that time has never been clearly ascertained. It may still be seen at Pompeii.

The *Checquers* became a common sign for country Inns; and the probability is

Frequently the sign was suspended from the arm of a post, reaching a considerable way over the street;\* or was erected on a lofty pole placed opposite the House.

It is intended in the present work to notice every ancient sign within the old walls of Great Yarmouth, adding such remarks as each may call forth.†

Some Taverns here have been in existence for centuries, and have retained their ancient names; but the great majority of public Houses have had their signs repeatedly changed, very many have been

that the custom was adopted to denote that the house had been duly licensed, a field cheque *arg.* and *gu.* being the arms of the ancient family of *Fitzwarren*, the head of which house, in former times, had the privilege of licensing the houses of vintners and publicans.

\* These hanging signs were not without their danger, for we read that in 1733, at Royston, in Cambridgeshire, a man was killed by the sign of the *George* in High street, falling upon him as he was driving his waggon.

Shirley, the dramatist, makes a drunkard tell his landlord to

“take a swing

“On his own sign post.”

† Harrison in his *Description of England*, written in 1585, after descanting on “the great and sumptuous Innes,” speaks of the “gorgeousnesse of their verie signes at their doores;” which custom, at that time, was carried to great excess.

Of all the signs in the world, that at the *White Hart*, at Scole, was the most remarkable. It was erected in 1655, by John Peck of Norwich, at the cost of £1057. His arms (*arg.* on a chev. engrailed *gu.* three crosslets paté of the field), and those of his wife (*arg.* a fesse betw. two crescents in chief, and a lion ramp. in base, *gu.* for *Jethestin*) were emblazoned on it, as were likewise the arms of the Town of Great Yarmouth, those of the Duke of Norfolk, the Earl of Yarmouth, and many others.

Sylas Neville mentions it with wonder. It was taken down about the commencement of the present century.

There is an engraving of “Schoale Inn,” 1740, exhibiting this sign extending across the road. It was elaborately carved and adorned with the figures of men and animals, by Fairchild.

Gough says that there was at this Inn (which was greatly resorted to by travellers) a round bed, capable of holding twenty couple.

"silenced," as the phrase was when a licence was withdrawn; and in numberless instances the licence has been "transferred" from house to house.

Swinden has given no account whatever of the RELIGIOUS HOUSES which flourished in Yarmouth during the middle ages. The several Orders of Friars, as was their custom, divided the town among them; the DOMINICANS or Black Friars taking the south, the FRANCISCANS or Grey Friars the central part, and the CARMELITES or White Friars the north end; whilst the AUGUSTINES held Gorleston and Southtown with a cell in Yarmouth.

This omission has to some extent been supplied by the Author, in his appendix to Manship's *History*, p. 402. It is not intended to repeat what may there be found, but in noticing the sites of these monastic buildings, some further particulars will be given.

GENEALOGY and HERALDRY were altogether neglected by Swinden, and have been but slightly touched upon by other writers. The attention of the Editor has therefore been directed to these subjects, which he hopes will not be without interest to the many families connected with Yarmouth. He is fully sensible, with Kennett, that there are many who despise studies of the kind he has mentioned; but it must be admitted that such researches tend to the understanding of the state of former ages, their municipal government, the rise and succession of doctrines and opinions, the tenures of property, the maxims of policy, the rites of religion, and indeed the nature of mankind.\*

It is singular that until 1722, when Swinden prepared the map which after his death was engraved and published by Mr. Mostyn John

\* Kennett's *Preface to his Parochial Antiquities*.

Armstrong, the Surveyor for the County of Norfolk (in 1779), there was no plan of this large, populous, and important Borough.

In the Hutch was preserved "A Plott of the Sand and Waters, in vellom, before Yermouth was built." This curious map (probably a very old copy) is still in existence.\* Not so "A new platt of the towne" which was in the Hutch when Manship compiled his "Sumary Reporte of all such Writings as doo belonge unto the saide towne, remayninge in the Vestry" in 1612, and which it is much to be regretted has disappeared.

In the reign of Queen Elizabeth a curious bird's eye view of the town was made, which is still preserved in the Cottonian Collection in the Library of the British Museum.†

In 1724 Corbridge published his "West Prospect" of Yarmouth, presenting an amusing panorama of the town, as it then appeared, surrounded by views of public buildings and some of the principal private houses; and below is a small plan of the town.

Buck, in 1741, published his "South-West Prospect," which is very similar to Corbridge's, but on a smaller scale. The original drawing by Buck was offered for sale in 1867, and was purchased by the late Town clerk, and is now in the Record Room.

After the passing of the *Municipal Corporation Act* in 1835, Manning published a map which included the buildings outside the walls which had been erected since the time of Swinden; and this map marks the wards into which the town had by the above act been divided.

In 1867 Mr. John Laing (who had previously been Town Sur-

\* It was engraved some years since at the expense of the late Hudson Gurney, Esq.

† A copy was published in the notes to Manship's *History*, p. 287.

veyor) published a new map of the town showing all the alterations and additions up to that time.

This is principally compiled from a general survey of the town made by him, upon a large scale, by order of the Local Board of Health.

The Town Council also employed Mr. Alfred William Morant when Town Surveyor, under the instructions of Charles Cory, Esq., Town Clerk, to make a map of every piece of ground from which they derived any revenue, identifying it with the Rent Roll.

The Charity Trustees have also had a map prepared by Mr. Morant of all their houses and lands, whether in Great Yarmouth, Thrigby, or Ireland.

The difficulty of identifying old houses is greatly increased by reason of the rows not having been numbered until 1804. Previous to that time each was usually distinguished by the name of some inhabitant living in or at either end of it, whose family and habitation are now alike forgotten; and the name of the row was frequently changed, thus rendering identification still more difficult.\* There are no means of knowing which was *Dame Aveline's Row*, or *Pater Noster Row*, except that the latter was somewhere on the South quay; but the names of some, such as *Conge Row*, have remained to this day. The houses themselves, strange to say, were not numbered until some time after the establishment of the Local Board of Health, and this most useful innovation was not accomplished without opposition.

It has often been a matter of regret to the Author that this work

\* This is exemplified by the eccentric circular of Richard Sutton, "Accountant and Teacher," enumerating six names which distinguished the Row, No. 136, where he resided in house No. 7.



had not been commenced at an earlier date, before the removal of those whose memories would have extended back to the last century, and who could have given, from personal knowledge, information of occurrences now forgotten.

This feeling has operated as an additional inducement on him to do all in his power to rescue what he could from the jaws of "all devouring Time."

The Author aspires to no greater merit than having made a further collection of matters which have, to use the language of Manship, previously laid "dispersedly;" and he can only address his readers in the language of Martial—

"Sunt bona, sunt quædam mediocria, sunt mala plura,  
"Quæ legis hic : aliter non fit, Avite liber."\*

He is fully aware of the many deficiencies which may be observed in a work which, under no circumstances, can be made thoroughly complete.

Deprived of those

"Teachers of wisdom ! who could once beguile  
"His saddest hours, and lighten every toil,"†

and residing at a distance from any great library, and with but little leisure at his command, the Author craves the indulgence of his readers.

Some defects also may be attributed to that weariness which is

\* Things good, things bad, things middling when you look  
You'll find to constitute, my friends, this book.

He hopes that it may not be said of him as it was of another Author,

" \* \* \* such various matters !  
"And no matter what !"

† Roscon.

ever attendant upon increasing years, often accompanied by unlooked for troubles ; but his motto has ever been

*Labor ipse voluptas,*

the truth of which he has amply found whilst engaged on this work.

It only remains for him to thank those personal friends who have kindly rendered him much valuable assistance, and to whom at the close of his labors he hopes to have an opportunity of more fully expressing his obligations.

C. J. P.

GREAT YARMOUTH,  
22nd March, 1870.

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\*.\* In order to avoid repetitions whenever the place of an event is not named, *Great Yarmouth* is implied ; and for the same reason the following abbreviations for quotations will be observed.

*F.* MANSHIP'S *Foundation and Antiquity of Great Yarmouth.*

*M.* MANSHIP'S *History of Great Yarmouth.*

*P.C.* PALMER'S *Continuation of Manship's History.*

*S.* SWINDEN'S *History.*

*T.S.* TURNER'S *Sepulchral Reminiscences.*



TO  
THE RIGHT HONORABLE  
GEORGE JOHN, LORD SONDES,  
BARON SONDES OF LEE'S COURT IN THE COUNTY OF KENT;

THIS BOOK  
ILLUSTRATIVE OF THE ANCIENT BOROUGH,  
OF WHICH HIS LORDSHIP IS  
HIGH STEWARD,

IS  
(WITH PERMISSION)  
MOST RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED,

BY  
HIS LORDSHIP'S MOST OBEDIENT

AND FAITHFUL SERVANT,

THE AUTHOR.



## INTRODUCTORY CHAPTER.

---

\* \* \* caput extulit undis.  
“ *The sands set up shop for themselves.*”—NASH.

---



THE CHRONICLER of old usually commenced his narrative with the Creation, and after giving a sketch of the history of the world, gradually brought his reader down to the more immediate subject of his work. It is proposed to follow this example so far only, as to give a slight account of the formation of the site of the present town of Great Yarmouth.

When the Romans invaded Britain, they found on this part of the coast a vast estuary, the waters of which penetrated inland to a natural stronghold of the Iceni; and into it flowed three rivers, the largest being the Wensum which joined it at the head, whilst on the south it received the winding waters of the *Wafelda* or Waveney, and on the north those of a smaller river subsequently called the Bure.

Up this estuary, named by them *Ostium Gariensis*, the Romans sailed with their gallies, and upon a promontory to their left formed a large camp, which they called *Garianonum*; a word supposed to be derived from the British *Garü-aum-enen*, the mouth of the rough river, the west side of which was open to the waters which then washed its base.\* On the opposite side of the estuary they placed a

\* The castrum at Lyme, and some others, were built in a similar way, one side being defended by a bank or precipice.

The annexed engraving is from the original plate published by Ives, now in the

summer camp at Caister (*Castrum*), and proceeding to the head they established their great camp at *Venta Icenorum*.\*

An outlet of this great estuary to the south, between the cliffs where Lowestoft harbour now is, became gradually blocked up by banks of sand and shingle, and had to be re-opened when that harbour was made; and another to the north, about two miles wide, at *Horsea*, filled up at an unknown early period; but occasionally high tides and strong winds forced the sea through the gap, and precautions have still to be taken to keep it out.

The tides of the ocean flowing up these channels and afterwards uniting, divided the mainland into two islands, one being to the north called *Flegg* (an Anglo-saxon term meaning flat); and the other to the south called *Lothingland*, from *Lothen* a Danish chief.

The friable cliffs on each side the principal mouth of this inland sea, were gradually worn away by the incessant beatings of the waves; and the *debris*, held in suspension, was carried by the currents of the ocean until meeting the outpouring of the waters, a deposit was gradually made, which was increased by the sediment brought down from the country, until at last a delta was formed, resting on a primeval bed of chalk and clay, which divided the outflow into two parts, thus forming an island.

Manship the elder, writing in the reign of Elizabeth, informs us that "the verye seate of the towne and burroughe of Greate Yarmouthe, that is to saye, the place and ground where uppon the towne is buylded, and now dothe stand, was parcel of a greate sande lying within the mayne sea, at the mouthe of the fludd or ryver called

possession of W. R. Fisher, Esq., of Lincoln's Inn, and is thus explained:—A. *Porta Prætoria*, B. *Area of Station*, C. *Vallum*, D. *Prætorium*, E. *Clift* next Breydon water.

The mound of earth at the part here called the *Prætorium* is believed to have been raised subsequently to the time of the Romans, and probably by the Saxons; in confirmation of which a discovery was made in 1839 of a quantity of human bones, about three feet below the surface, which could not have been Roman, as the Romans invariably burned the bodies of their dead.

\* Near the Brundall Station is a place called Galley field; and the tradition is that there the Romans were accustomed to moor or draw up their vessels during the winter months.

*Ex-Amples de Programmes de formation innovational*



*This beinge a p[ar]te in the mayne Sea at  
that tyme is now become the state of a verye strange Towne  
beinge very well walled & rampared to the top of the walle &  
that towne is now called by y<sup>e</sup> name of the Towne of Great Yarmouth in  
Norfolke*

To the Rev.<sup>d</sup> Edw.: Thomas, A.M.F.R.S. & F.S.A. and To Edm.: Jacob Esq. F.S.A. of Faversham in Kent; This Plate is inscribed by J. J. 19





"*Hierus*, beinge continuallye under water and over flowen with the sea, of which ryver the name of the same towne was derived when it was first named (viz.) *Hiermuth*, or otherwise without aspiration "*Jermouth*, or in latin *Jeremutha*, as it is a towne seated at the mouthe "of the *Hierus* or *Jerus*."\*

The Anglo Saxons softened the *g* into a *j* (which came to be pronounced as a *y*), and added the word *mud* or *mouth*; and the teutonic *d* being pronounced *th* we have thus *Garmud* or *Jermud*, and thence in modern parlance Yarmouth.†

In the law latin of the middle ages the place was called *Gernemutha*, or more commonly *Jernemutha*.

When the Romans quitted Britain, the Saxons came over in great numbers and took possession of the country; this part of the coast having been previously known as the Saxon shore.

At a later period the waters of the *Garruenos* afforded the Danes facilities of invasion; and they obtained such a footing as to induce King Alfred to concede to them permanent settlements in East Anglia, which to this day are marked by the Danish word *by* (meaning a farm, dwelling house, or village), which terminates the name of many a parish in the neighbourhood of Yarmouth.

*Nord-vicus*, the ancient stronghold of the Britons already mentioned, afterwards held by the Saxons, and now known as Norwich, was ravaged by the Danes under Sweyn, whose fleet passed the sand bank on which Yarmouth now stands, and sailed up the estuary which in more peaceful times was resorted to by the Flemings and other traders.

The security afforded by the charter granted by Henry I., induced artizans from the low countries to settle at Norwich, and to introduce at that early period those manufactures which became the principal source of wealth to that city; and thus the rough waters of the *Garruenos*,

\* The Editor has been permitted, by W. R. Fisher, Esq., to re-publish the map engraved for Ives, from the original plate now in his possession. It is a free copy of the Hutch map mentioned in the Prefatory Note.

† According to Max Müller, the explanatory adjunct *mouth* (the Saxon *Mutha*), originally meant "harbour," so that the compound signified Yare-harbour. The prefix of *Great* was first applied to it in the charter granted by Henry III.

gradually becoming the placid stream of the Yare, were the first to float into England that skill and enterprise which have tended so much to make her pre-eminent among nations.

Before the tenth century, the subsiding waters of the *Garruenos* had produced great changes, and the sand bank thrown up, as we have seen at the mouth of the estuary, had ceased to be overflowed by the sea, and had become firm and dry.\*

The drift sand was kept together by the wide spreading fibres of a grass called *Marram*; a word nearly identical with the Danish name of the same plant—*Marcholau* i.e. *Mere-haula* or sea straw.† By the action of the wind a high ridge of sand was formed from north to south, constituting, as it were, the backbone of the future town, and the sands which extended themselves on every side, especially to the north and south, became covered with a short thick coarse grass, interspersed in places with several species of trefoil.‡



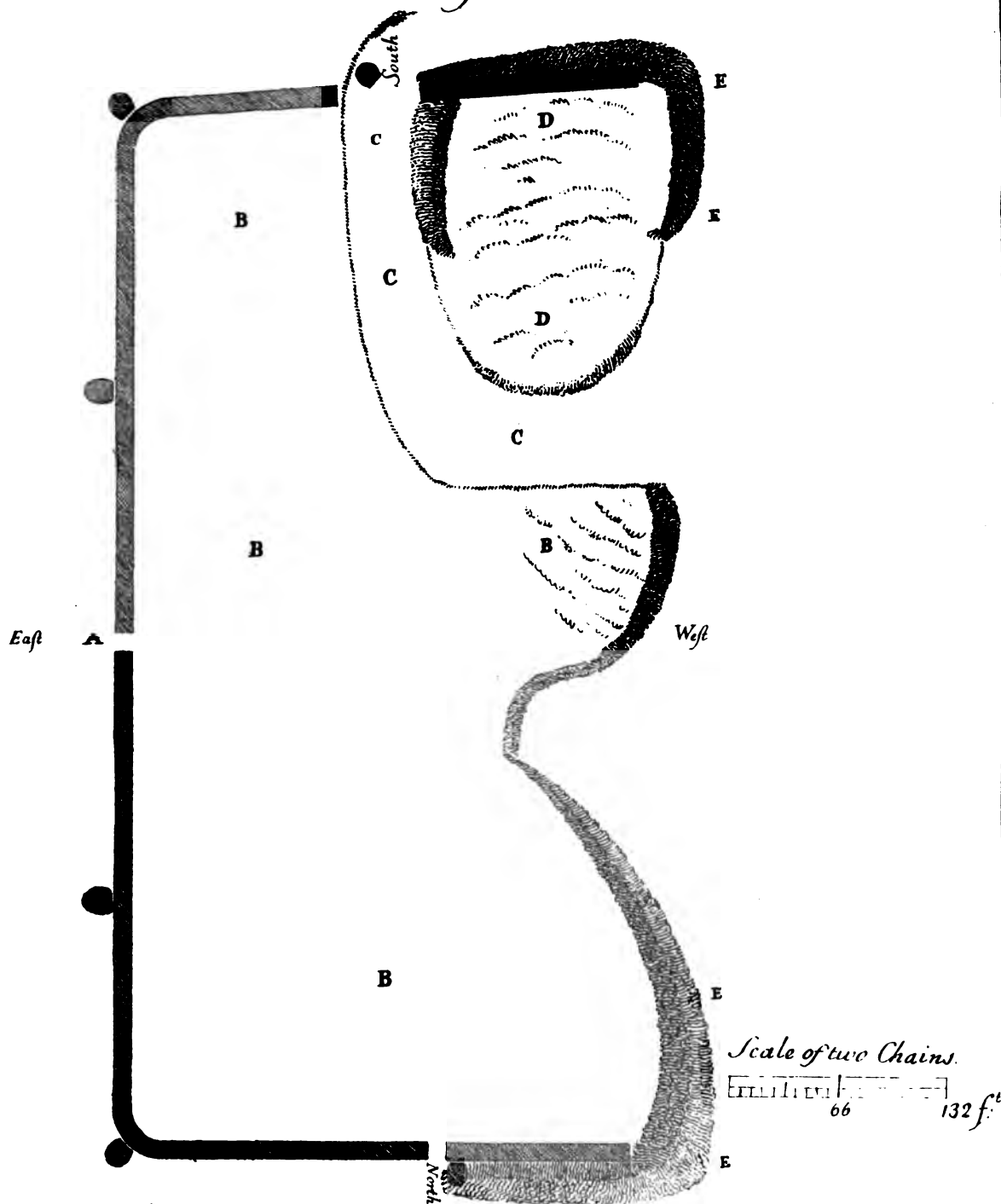
\* In 1841, an attempt was made to sink an artesian well at the Brewery on the Church plain. Immediately beneath the surface soil, sand and shingle were found similar to the accumulations on the beach, to the depth of 111 feet; then came a stratum of dark sand 49 feet thick, and beneath it dark coloured clay to a depth of 350 feet, when a band of flints, 5 feet thick, was found, and beneath the flints was primeval chalk which was not penetrated. Some of the clay was very fine and adapted for modelling.

† When Col. Stoddart, who had often been in Yarmouth, started on his journey to the East, which ended in his captivity and death at Bokhara, he took with him some Marram grass, with the view of ascertaining whether it could be made effectual in binding down the sand of the desert.

‡ The word Denes, by which these parts are still called, is not used in any other part of the kingdom, and is derived from *den*, low flat sandy ground by the sea shore; differing from Downs which are undulating. *Dunes* is an old French word, and *Duynes* in Dutch means sandhills by the sea side. The fishermen of the Cinque Ports claimed the right of "den and strond" at Yarmouth, from a very early period; the former being the right of spreading and drying their nets upon the Denes, without let or hindrance; and the latter that of mooring their vessels at the strond, strand, or river bank.

Mr. W. G. Palgrave, in his *Journal through Central and Eastern Arabia*, says that the dry flats lying between Bereyda and Riad reminded him of Yarmouth Denes. Vol. i. p. 339.

# *ICHNOGRAPHY of GARIANONUM.*



To D<sup>r</sup> Ducarel  
This Plate is



*F.R.S. & F.S.A.*  
Inscribed by *J. Nod.*



Then, as now, the adjacent sea swarmed with herrings at the season of the year peculiar to that fish on this coast, namely from Michaelmas to Martinmas, and fishermen from the western ports and also from the opposite shores resorted hither for the purpose of pursuing their vocation.\*

As the sand upon which Yarmouth is built "did growe to be drye, "and was not overflowen by the sea, but waxed in height and also in "greatnes, much store of people from the counties of Norfolk and "Suffolk did resorte thither, and did pitche tabernacles and boothes "for the enterteynenge of such seafaring men and fishermen and "merchants as wold resorte unto that place, eyther to sell their herringes, "fish, and other comodoties, and for providenge suche things as those "seamen did neede and wante."†

Ultimately permanent dwellings were erected and peopled by residents, who principally relied for their support upon the influx of visitors during the fishing season, which for the time became a fair; and thus a community became established which continually increased.‡

As the western fishermen advanced in number and civilization, they brought a priest with them to attend to their spiritual wants; and as the number of permanent inhabitants multiplied, the Bishop of East Anglia sent a priest to reside among them. This led to the erection of a small church, built at a place called "the Green Hill," which was dedicated to St. Bennet, and a dispute arose as to which priest was entitled to the tythe of fish and the oblations of the fishermen; a

\* The sea, as we have seen, flowed round the sand upon which the infant town was built, and we read of herrings being caught in great numbers at Norwich. At Beccles (*Beata Ecclesia*) also they were abundant, for in the reign of the Confessor the lordship yielded 30,000 herrings yearly to the abbey of Bury St. Edmund's.

† F., p. 8.

‡ That the first inhabitants were recruited from the neighbouring villages is proved by the fact that there is scarcely a parish in Norfolk or Suffolk the name of which is not to be found somewhere or other on the borough rolls as giving the patronymic to some family—as *de Acle*, *de Ormesby*, *de Stalham*, *de Horsey*, *de Somerleyton*, *de Belton*, *de Catfield*, &c.

controversy which was ultimately decided in favour of the one nominated by the bishop.\*

At a very early period, differences arose between the settled inhabitants and those who temporarily or periodically visited the place; the former claiming privileges denied to the latter. An endeavour was made to prevent strangers from becoming the owners of houses, and it required the authority of the Crown to place them on an equal footing.

Nash, in his *Lenten Stuffe*, gives a facetious account of the accidental manner in which an early discovery was made of the way to cure herrings, a process which for centuries was confined to Yarmouth. At a time when chimnies were not, and when coal was unknown, a fire of wood was placed in the centre of the principal room of the house, and the smoke was allowed to escape through the roof. A fisherman who had hung up several rows of fresh herrings and forgotten to take them down for some time, found them, when he did so, of a golden colour, and the meat deliciously cured.†

The town thus founded was however subject to frequent inundations; and we read of great floods which occasionally spread far and wide, the sea running up the estuary and causing great destruction of life and property. These ravages were however gradually checked by the accumulation of mud and ooze which in time filled up the valley of the Yare, and formed those tracts of fertile marshes which now lie between Yarmouth and Norwich.‡

\* The right of presentation has ever since remained in the prior and convent of the Holy Trinity at Norwich, and their successors the dean and chapter.

† This "pleasant-pated poet," as Manship styles him, was born at Lowestoft in 1567, and died in 1601. There is a very rare engraved portrait of him, published in 1597. He fully appreciated the "benign hospitality" with which he was treated at Yarmouth, and in return wrote his *Praise of Red Herring*. See an account of Nash and his works in Craiks' *Sketches of the Learning and Literature of England*. See also M., pp. 120, 264, and 313.

‡ So late as 1287, "there was a greate rage of the sea at the said town of Yermouth, in so much that moste parte of that towne was wellnere drowned upp, "and the height of the sea-water was at that tyme in the churche of St. Nicholas, "the fulle measure of fower foote by the rewle." F., p. 11.

The range of sands lying off the town form a natural breakwater, and if by any convulsion they should be removed, the town would unquestionably be submerged.

By the time of King Edward the Confessor, the town had so far increased as to contain seventy burgesses or substantial resident traders; and in the general survey of the kingdom then made, it is declared to be *terra regis*, the king holding two parts and the earl one part, and that the sheriff received £4 and one hawk as a fine; but it is added that these were given "gratis and in friendship," and not as a matter of right; so early had the inhabitants asserted a stout independence.

The first houses were erected upon the most elevated part of the ridge of sand already mentioned, "the gift of the "north-east wind," at a place now called Fuller's hill; commanding at that time an uninterrupted sea view.

The first STREET commenced at the top of this hill, and ran in a south-west direction until it reached a place near the river called THE CONGE; hence this street was sometimes anciently called Conge street, and is now called George street.

The ground upon which Yarmouth is built, having been, as we have seen, "given up by the sea," the first inhabitants were mere "squatters," erecting their booths, and ultimately their houses, without leave or licence, and remained unmolested for a considerable period; but as soon as they had increased greatly in numbers, and a town began to spring up, the king exercised his rights over it.

It was usual for the Crown to make grants of its demesne lands to some powerful subject; and those in the immediate vicinity of Yarmouth were before the Conquest held by Earl Guert, the brother of King Harold; and were forfeited when William the Conqueror obtained the throne.

The Normans introduced the Feudal System under which all lands were to be held either direct from the king or of an intermediate lord, on condition of rendering some military or other service, or by making a payment instead. The tenure which obtained at Yarmouth was that of soccage, and although the owners of houses and lands within the borough were supposed to hold the same, "at the will of the lord" (which continued to be sometimes expressed in conveyances down to the seventeenth century), yet this was a legal fiction, the lord having no



existence ; so that in fact they were *Free-hold*, that is, held free of any rent or service whatsoever ; and in Yarmouth there never was a manor or anything in the nature of copyhold.

King Henry I., "being enformed of the greate resorte of people," appointed a provost, "who took diverse and sondrye duties for the "king, of the inhabitants and of all others repayreng thither, and "exequeted justice in the king's name, accordinge to his commission "yeldinge accompte thereof to the king."\* This important functionary resided in the Conge, a word supposed to have been derived from the leave or licence without which no ship or vessel could load or unload her cargo ; but having done so, and paid all dues and demands, she made her *Congée* and departed.

Hence it was anciently called the King's Conge,† and the quay adjoining was called the Lord's quay ; a name which it long retained.‡

King John commuted all his rights over the town of Yarmouth for a yearly payment of £55 ; leaving the inhabitants to tax and govern themselves.||

\* F., p. 9.

† In 1318, John Pilgrim and Maud his wife conveyed to Richard le Mercer of Norwich, a piece of land with three shops built thereon, on the quay adjoining the haven, between the ground of William Waxtonsham on the north part, and King's Conge on the south part, paying to the prior and co-friars of the church of St. Mary de Waybridge and their successors for ever, an annual rent of 8s. 8d. ; and in 1335, his executors (Maud his widow and Walter Brining) granted to Richard de Friese-land, draper, and Sir Edward Gerberge, chaplain, warden and principal of the hospital of St. Mary the Virgin, a yearly rent of thirty pence, arising out of two shops and a house adjoining, which abutted upon the King's Conge towards the south, and upon Middlegate street towards the east.

‡ In 1560, the chamberlains were amerced by the leet for not repairing "the Lord's quay," clearly showing that this quay had passed from the Crown to the corporation, and that being their property they were bound to repair it, as private persons were then obliged to do in respect of the quay in front of their houses.

|| This charter is still in the Record room, in good preservation. A photograph of it is published in P. C.

## CHAPTER I.

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"This towne of Yarmouth containeth in length from north to south,  
"very near an English mile within the walls." MANSHIP.

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FROM the date of the charter of King John (1209) when Yarmouth became a FREE BOROUGH, the town rapidly increased in trade, wealth, and political importance.

At a very early period the Barons of the Cinque Ports had been accustomed to send two of their number to Yarmouth to execute "royal justice" during the free fair; but when the permanent population increased, great jealousy of the authority of the Cinque Port Bailiffs began to be entertained. Under the above charter, the inhabitants of Yarmouth obtained the privilege of governing themselves, and they then endeavoured to exclude the Port Bailiffs altogether, and this led to great contention and many riots ending frequently in bloodshed,\* until at last by the exercise of the royal authority, a perfectly equal and concurrent jurisdiction was vested in the Bailiffs of Yarmouth and the bailiffs sent by the Cinque Ports, during the time of the free fair, being the only instance of the kind in the kingdom.†

During the fishing season warning fires were kept burning on the land, the expenses being defrayed by a contribution of two pence for each vessel; and disputes arose as to who should receive the money and perform the duty, which difference was ended by the

\* Leake affirms that upon one occasion a bailiff of the Cinque Ports was killed in the streets of Yarmouth, and that for many years a stone marked the spot where he fell. See Leake's *Charters of the Cinque Ports*.

† Many subsequent squabbles occasionally took place, some particulars of which, of an amusing character, will be related in another place.

"Dite" of Edward I., which decided that the barons should take the money and sustain the fires "at the usual places," but if they neglected to do so, the bailiffs were to act.

The FREE FAIR at Yarmouth, "from the Feaste of Sainte Michaelle 'th' Archangell, untylle the Feaste of Sainte Martine, aboute the "takinge, sellinge, and buyenge of herrings," was resorted to by "greate store of sea farenge men," not only of this kingdom but also "greate nombers from France, Flaunders, Holland, Zealande, and all "the lowe countryes yerelie." Also by the *Easterlings*, who were merchants from Germany and members of the Hanseatic league.\* Yarmouth was also frequented "at other tymes of the yere aboute other kindes of fishe;" and it became one of the principal out-ports for all sorts of merchandise; and able and willing to assist the kings of this realm in their naval expeditions.

At this early period the river which had been divided by the sand bank on which Yarmouth was built, still flowed into the sea by two channels, one being to the south under the cliffs of Gorleston, the other to the north by what was called *Grubb's Haven* or *Cockle Water*. The latter gradually choked up with sand, but it was not finally closed until 1336, at which time Yarmouth ceased to be an island, and the south channel became, as it is now, the only outlet to the sea.

The natural tendency of the town was to follow the course of the river to the south, and it rapidly increased in that direction. The first street commencing, as we have seen, at the spot where the first houses were erected, was continued from the Conge to the *North Foreland*, which bounded a spacious plain, about 245 yards in

\* Yarmouth free fair being a place of resort by persons from various parts of the kingdom and also from abroad, was frequently named as the place for settling accounts between merchants. Thus we find that in 1238, Adam le Potter of London acknowledged £20 due to Allred le Pecherel of Ducacit, to be paid at the then next ensuing fair at Yarmouth. *Liber Albus*.

The fair was *free* in all respects. Merchants could "sell their goods by their own hands." Nothing was taken for "fenestrage and stallage," and Edward I. in his "Dite" says "En droit de menestrieux et de femmes de vie, dions et volens que nos barons des portez, ne ceux de Gernemue, rein ne preignent." *Foedera*, vol. iii. p. 744.

length, being rather more than a furlong; the opposite extremity or *South Foreland* being therefore called *Furlong's End*.

In the fifteenth century, this locality had probably become the most fashionable part of the town, for we find that Ralph Lampet, who was bailiff in 1440, had his house here;\* and what is more conclusive the renowned Sir John Fastolfe, K.G., of Caister castle, had "a splendid mansion in the *Foreland*," for which he paid a ground rent to the corporation.

It appears that this worthy knight had a *rengiate* (*rengiatum*) or long strip of ground at the *Foreland*, probably that now built upon lying between the end of George street and the river, which was subject to a rent of 13s. 4d. to the altar of the church of St. Nicholas. In 1478, the Prior of Norwich brought an action against John Swolle, the then possessor of the house, to recover the rent; and it appears that the prior had already distrained a piece of cloth hanging in the hall of Swolle's house.† The prior recovered the rent and all arrears, and had his costs allowed. During the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries the family of Fastolfe was very numerous, wealthy, and powerful. Alexander Fastolfe was bailiff in 1280. William Fastolfe was returned to Parliament in 1299; and from that period members of



\* He married Margaret, daughter of John Braunche, Esq., of an ancient family long seated at Stody in Norfolk. They had the lordship and advowson of the Rectory there settled upon them. The Lady Catherine Braunche, her grandmother, resided at Caister next Yarmouth. Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Philip Braunche, Knt., died at Caister in 1440. She married first John Clere of Ormesby, and secondly Sir John Rothenhall, Knt. By her will she bequeathed to Richard Walsham, Prior of Yarmouth, eight marks per annum to pray for her soul and the souls of her two husbands.

Among the Harl. M.S.S. (901, fo. 168) is "the right worshipful descentes of the Cleres, deduced from the body of Edmund Clere, that came into England with William the "Conqueror." They bore *arg.* on a fesse, *az.* three eaglets *or.*

† John Swolle served the office of bailiff in 1448.

this family filled the principal municipal offices of the borough, and otherwise distinguished themselves for several generations.

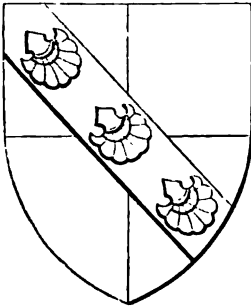
Alexander Fastolfe, who died in 1405, left considerable estates in Bradwell and Gorleston, besides his Yarmouth property. John Fastolfe, son of another Alexander Fastolfe, was "a man of considerable account," says Kippis, "in this and other parts," and purchased lands at Caister. By his will, made in 1383, he desired to be buried in the churchyard of St. Nicholas, near the south aisle.\* He gave to St. Nicholas' church, 48s.; to the church of the Holy Trinity, Caister, 6s. 8d.; to the church of St. Edmund, Caister, 6s. 8d.; to Sir John, the chaplain, 6s. 8d.; to all testator's servants, ample wages; to Hugh, his brother, a cup; to Ada, his sister, another cup; all his other chattels to Mary his wife, and to her he also gave all his annual rents derived from his Yarmouth property. He appointed his wife, his brother Hugh, and Sir John Oxwich, Rector of Caister Holy Trinity, executors. He was the father of Sir John Fastolfe, K.G., who after a very brilliant career in the service of the Crown built the "faire castell of Caister," where he lived in great state till his death in 1459, in the eighty-first year of his age.†

\* He appears to have been buried just outside the wall, and within there was a fine crocketed canopy surmounting his tomb. The projecting mouldings were ruthlessly cut away when "the Alderman's Gallery" was erected in the last century. On the removal of the latter in 1847, this tomb was brought to light, and a small shield beneath the apex of the canopy, still faintly exhibited the emblazoned arms of Fastolfe. The canopy has been restored, and an inscription in honor of the Fastolfe family should be placed above the tomb.

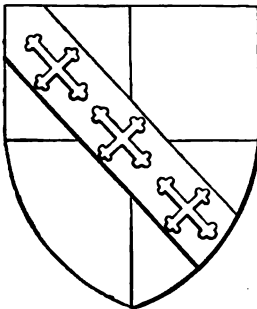
† Ives, the antiquary, in an unpublished letter to the Rev. Mr. Bowle, says "I will not contend for Sir John's being born at Yarmouth, but either in this town or at Caister I am confident he first drew breath. I hope to have the pleasure of showing you the house in which he resided at Yarmouth." He further says "the family papers (of Sir John Fastolfe), with several of his original letters, his will, inventories, accounts, &c., formerly in the hands of the Rev. Mr. Blomefield, author of the *History of Norfolk*, are now in mine, and it is probable I may one day pursue an intention which death frustrated in him, and give them to the world." It is to be regretted that he was not spared to carry out this design, but many of these papers have been published by Mr. Dawson Turner, in his *Sketch of the History of Caister Castle*.

Sir John was buried in a most sumptuous manner at St. Bennet's Abbey.

"Where monks should sing, and bells should toll,  
"All for the weal of Fastolfe's soul."\*



The Fastolfes bore quarterly *or.* and *az.*, on a bend *gu.*, three escallops *ar.* Sir John Fastolfe, for distinction, bore three crosslets on the bend. Both coats are on the ceiling of the south aisle of St. Nicholas' church, and the former is repeated with several implements.



Over against the west gate of the Cathedral at Norwich, says Blomefield, there was a large house, the portico of which was supported by large figures of Sampson and Hercules, carved in wood. This house was owned by Sir John Fastolfe. It was afterwards the property of the Duchess of Suffolk, who used it as the city house of herself and family.

Sir John Fastolfe had his town residence in Southwark, immediately opposite the Tower of London.† After the death of Sir John, the name of Fastolfe is no longer to be found in our local records, and the family became extinct.‡

\* Nothing now remains of this once magnificent building but a portion of the gate-house, a picturesque ruin well known to all acquainted with the river Bure, upon the banks of which it stands.

† The *Boar's Head* in Southwark, was the property of Sir John Fastolfe.

According to Chalmers, in his *History of Oxford*, it was, with the manor of Caldecott hall (at Fritton in Suffolk), part of the benefactions of the worthy old knight, to Magdalen college, Oxford. This gift was made at the instance of his friend, William of Wainfleet, Bishop of Winchester.

‡ A further account of this family and of Sir John Fastolfe, K.G., may be found in the Editor's Notes to Manship's *Foundation and Antiquity*, p. 60, and in his Notes to Manship's *History*, p. 203. The mother of Sir John Fastolfe was Mary, daughter of Nicholas Park, Esq. She married, secondly, Sir Thomas Mortimer, and was

Roger Bigot, Earl of Norfolk, had a house in Yarmouth, but the site is not now known. He died in 1307.\*

buried in the chapel belonging to the Chantry of the Holy Cross, at Attleborough. Her renowned son, by his will, directed that the priests of the college which he had founded at Caister, should "syng specyally in perpetuite for her soul."

It is well known that Shakspeare first gave the name of Sir John Oldcastle to the character afterwards designated Sir John Falstaff. Oldcastle, who was called the good Lord Cobham, placed himself at the head of the Lollards, when they were considered by the government of the day as dangerous levellers, to be put down with a high hand. He was burnt in St. Giles' field.

When Shakspeare first came to London, he found Oldcastle's name used opprobriously by other writers, and it is supposed that he adopted it without enquiry. The great poet not only subsequently struck it out, but also proclaimed from the stage that "Oldcastle died a martyr," which, in some measure, may be taken as an indication of the faith which he then professed.

Why he afterwards adopted a name which in sound resembled that of another gallant knight, but whose character gave no warrant for such a use of it, cannot be explained. Probably he took the first name that struck his fancy; and he may have had some prejudice against Sir John Fastolfe, but there was no foundation whatever

for the statements contained in the play of King Henry VI., commencing "Shame on the Duke of Burgundy and thee."

Sir John was never so degraded, and the only incident giving colour to it was that at the battle of Patay, his troops fled panic-struck before the Maid of Orleans. He greatly distinguished himself at the battle of Herrings, fought at Agincourt, took the Duke d'Alençon prisoner at Verneuil, and served with great renown under the Duke of Bedford, Regent of France, whose shield of arms appears on the ceiling of the south aisle of St. Nicholas' church.



\* Dying without issue the title became extinct, but in 1312 it was conferred upon Thomas Plantagenet, fifth son of Edward I. His shield of arms was placed on the ceiling of the south aisle of St. Nicholas' church. He died without male issue, in 1338, but left two daughters, the elder of whom, Margaret, was created Duchess of Norfolk for life. She married John, Lord Segrave, through whom she became the ancestress of the Mowbrays and Howards, Dukes of Norfolk. She took for her second husband that "flower of chivalry," Sir Walter Manny, K.G., who commanded the Yarmouth fleet employed to convey the Earl of Lancaster and his troops to the king at Antwerp.



In later times the Dukes of Norfolk were frequently in Yarmouth, but it does not appear that they had any permanent residence here.

In 1468, the Duke of Norfolk, who had been on terms of intimacy with Sir John Fastolfe, and had visited him at Caister, came to Yarmouth at the head of a large body of armed retainers, with the avowed intention of taking forcible possession of the castle, which he pretended had been given to him by the knight. At Yarmouth, he on the 26th of September, issued a haughty manifesto, requiring the Pastons to give up the place, promising that those in possession should have "their lives and goods, horse and harness," but not their arms. The widowed mother of Sir John Paston, however, kept the castle for her son (who was abroad), and for a time defied the duke, and actually kept him at bay for twelve months. At last, having collected a force of 3,000 men, under the command of four distinguished Norfolk knights, Sir John Haveningham, Sir Thomas Wingfield, Sir Anthony Wingfield, and Sir William Brandon, the duke placed himself at their head and proceeded to attack the castle, the immediate fall of which was predicted; but the heroic lady still held out, and the whole month of September was consumed in hostile operations. The patience of the duke being exhausted, he sent to Lynn and other places for more guns, and the slender garrison being reduced by death and disabled by wounds, and moreover being "sorely in lack of victuals and gunpowder," were compelled "to yield the castle," and the duke obtained possession. Two men only of the besieging force were slain, and the duke indicted the Pastons for murder; but the proceedings came to nothing.

When Elizabeth, Queen of Edward IV., visited Norwich, where she remained for some time, the chamberlains of that city came to Yarmouth to see the duke and solicit his interest with the king to relieve the city of taxes; and in the same year Henry Spelman, Recorder of Norwich, with two servants, Richard Farrouer with two servants, John Coke, one of the chamberlains, with one servant, and Hammond Claxon, rode over from Norwich and spoke with the duke, touching a riot and grievous affray made by some of his servants on John Berney of Witchingham (who had espoused the cause of the Pastons), within the cathedral at Norwich, whereby the church had



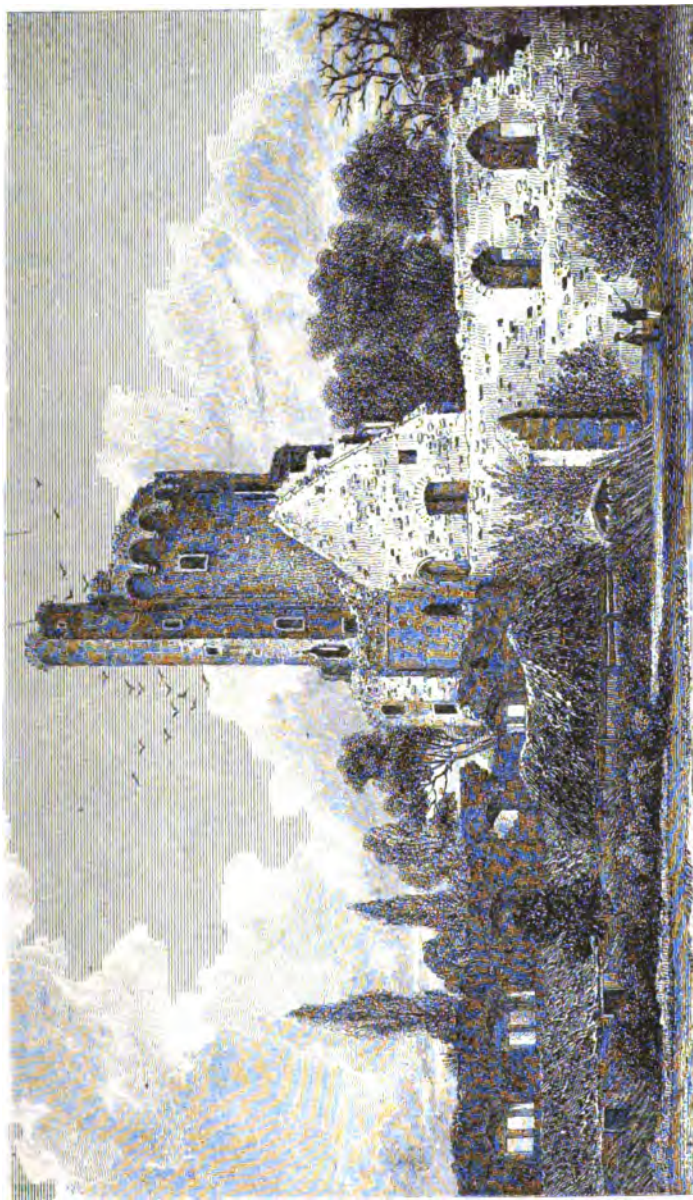
been suspended from holy offices, having been polluted with blood. Peace was made with the duke, who promised his good offices with the king for the relief of the city; and when the duke got possession of Caister castle, the citizens sent him a barrel of beer.

In 1545, "by the king's commands and oversyghte of the Duke of Norfolke, the walles of the towne were rampared upp to the toppes for the better suretye and defense of the said towne againste any enemye that might assalte yt."

In 1546 the duke came to put "a finall end" to the disputes between the town and Sir William Paston; and in the same year, when Lord High Admiral, "p'ceyving the decaye of the haven wolde tende to the subversion of so good and servicable a towne," the duke, "at his own costes and charges," sent for Mr. Tompson, Master of the Maison Dieu at Dover, reported to be a skilful man, and brought him to Yarmouth, "takinge his advise and counsell;" but before any thing could be done to the harbour, the duke himself was sent to the Tower and attainted. In 1553 he was restored to his honors, and the corporation sent him half a tun of wine and a quarter of ling, as tokens of their good will. The duke died in the following year; and was succeeded by his grandson, who also evinced great friendship for Yarmouth, and interested himself in the improvement of the harbour. In 1559 he came to the town, and was entertained by Mr. Bailiff Hunt, and the corporation presented him with a tun of wine. In 1560 he was elected high steward of the borough; and in 1572 he was beheaded. The succeeding Dukes of Norfolk paid frequent visits to Yarmouth, as we shall have occasion to notice.

In 1556 the Earl of Sussex, "by the comandment of the kinge and queene," came to Yarmouth, where he "keepeed an honorable house almoste one yere," but the site is now unknown.\*

\* Henry Ratcliffe, Earl of Sussex, was among the first to join Queen Mary at Kenninghall, and was ever after a great favorite with Her Majesty, and was of her privy council. He had the singular privilege conferred upon him of wearing "his cappe, coyf, or night cappe or two of them at his pleisor," as well in Her Majesty's presence as in the presence of any other person of the realm. His business in Yarmouth was to enquire into "diverse matters," and especially as to "treasons committed," and as to the fortifications.



CAISTER CASTLE.



A second street beginning at the plain adjoining the churchyard, and taking a southerly direction, was also anciently called *Middle* street, or *Middlegate* street, which in the last century was changed to Charlotte street, in honor of the then queen consort.\*

This street, after passing the Broad row, terminated at a row called *Mews' half* row (now numbered 91), on which account it was called *Blind Middle* street, a name which in the last century was changed to Howard street, in honor of the Norfolk family.

A third street, also running north and south, commenced at the *South Foreland* and extending to the south extremity of the town, terminated at a junction with Friars' lane. This street was also called *Middlegate* street; and was lately known as Gaol street. All the old streets in Yarmouth, as we have seen, ran from north to south, and the only means of traversing the town from east to west was through the rows, for which Yarmouth is peculiarly celebrated; their similitude not being found in any other town in the kingdom. They are numerous narrow streets crossing the town from east to west, at right angles, and at frequent but irregular distances.

The rows of Chester have no resemblance to the Yarmouth rows, the former being covered passages, or open galleries, running through and forming part of the houses which are built over them.

Why these narrow streets in Yarmouth should be called rows is not clear. The word itself signifies a number of things ranged in one line; and these rows have on each side houses and other buildings.

In the oldest deeds extant, and in all legal documents down to the present time, they are described as "common lanes or rows." *Laen* in Dutch, or *lana* in Saxon, signifies "a narrow way between hedges," which is the popular acceptation; but it also means a narrow street. Some have derived the word *row* from the French *rue* a street or lane, but as *rowa* in Saxon means a rank, the words were probably originally used in the sense of *lana*, a common lane or way, and *rowa* a rank of houses, when such lane was built up on either side.

\* It was also known as *Wrestlers'* street, from the old tavern on the Church plain, near which it commenced.

A fanciful suggestion has been made as to their first formation, by supposing that each fisherman spread out his nets to dry, leaving a narrow passage between his fleet of nets and his neighbour's, for the convenience of gathering them up again, and also to distinguish them; and that in process of time these narrow passages became defined and were permanently retained. Certain it is that the herring nets spread out to dry upon the denes, with the narrow passages between them, form some resemblance to the ground plan of the old town. Dickens, in his *Household Words*, designated Yarmouth as the *Norfolk Gridiron*, because these numerous rows, all following each other in succession, bear a resemblance to the bars of that useful culinary utensil. The plan of the town, however, more closely resembles the skeleton of a turbot or other flat fish, the head lying to the north, the ridge we have mentioned forming the back, and the rows the lateral bones.\*

The rows must have been commenced soon after the first houses were erected, for we find them in the oldest part of the town, and they extended from end to end within the walls.

Nash, who wrote in 1598, says they were then "seven score" in number; and Manship, writing in 1619, also says there were 140. "Whereby," he adds, "every householder to his private dwelling hath, "for all necessities, very convenient conveyance; and the same in time "of hostility, for the defence and safeguard of the towne, very meet "and necessary; for one man against twenty, with shot and powder, is "able to make resistance."†

The average width of these rows is about six feet. Some are wider, but many are narrower, diminishing to three feet and even less

\* A modern writer has playfully suggested that, placed as the town was between the sea and the river, and not knowing at what moment the former might make a sudden rush and sweep them bodily into the arms of the latter, the wily natives instead of attempting to present a solid, unbroken front of opposition to their powerful enemy, left a series of narrow openings in their ranks, through which his force, broken into harmless fragments, might charge and re-charge in vain.

† They afford great facilities for a mob to disperse quickly and reform. Thus, in 1851, when a great riot was made by the sailors, who combined to compel an increase of wages, and who broke open the police court and released some prisoners, and threatened to do the same with the gaol, the 11th Hussars who came from Norwich,



Row, No: 89.



(the narrowest at one end being two feet three inches), whilst they are not generally of the same width throughout, and are seldom, if ever, quite straight, resembling in some manner the gentle sweep made by the waves on the sea shore.

"Now and then," says Dickens, "the houses overhang, and even "join above your head, converting the row, so far, into a sort of tunnel "or tubular passage. Many and many a picturesque bit of old domestic "architecture is to be found. In some there is little more than a "blank wall for the double boundary; in others the houses retreat "into tiny square courts."

The residents in these rows are now principally mariners, fishermen, labourers, and the general poor; but formerly they were inhabited by a richer class, and many large and substantially-built houses still remain, which, although in a divided and mutilated state, give evidence that they were once the abodes of a wealthier grade of society. In fact some of the leading men of the town, down to a comparatively recent period, resided in the rows, which however were not then so much crowded by buildings, many of the houses having large gardens attached to them.

In 1618 an ordinance was made that all doors opening outwards into rows should be altered and made to open inwards; otherwise the constables were ordered to nail them up, and fine the owners five shillings a piece.\* Many new doors were made at that time, some of which still remain.

A curious custom prevailed during the middle ages for persons called Beadmen or Bellmen of the church of St. Nicholas, to go about

under the command of the Earl of Cardigan, to quell it, quickly cleared the quay and streets, but as soon as the military had passed, the mob issued from the rows where they had taken refuge, and collected as before.

Many years afterwards, a military officer suggested to the writer that they might have been cleared by grape shot from either extremity; but it was objected that the mob would have taken refuge in the houses on each side, and remained there till the guns were withdrawn. "Then," said he, "the only plan would have been to dislodge them from house to house as we did the rebels at Lucknow."

\* This is a good regulation to prevent obstructions; but the doors of all public buildings should be made to open outwards; otherwise the pressure of a crowd within, may, in cases of alarm, prevent their being opened at all. Roman doors, to private



the town praying at the head of every row for the souls of those who had bequeathed money for that purpose.

In 1296 John de Sporle gave to the bellmen of the church of St. Nicholas and their successors for ever, a yearly rent of 13d. charged upon a dwelling-house which he held abutting east upon *Middlegate* street.

In 1349 William Oky directed the sum of 2s. to be paid to them annually out of his capital messuage, brewhouse, and alehouse, so that such beadmen should "keep the anniversary" of the testator, of Juliana his late wife, of Margaret his then wife, of William his brother, of Robert his father, and of Maud his mother, "and for them pray annually for ever, at every head of a row in the town of Great Yarmouth."

William Motte also gave "to the bellmen and their successors 6d. "of an annual rent out of my capital messuage for ever, to keep my "anniversary for ever, and pray for my soul, and the soul of Margaret "my wife, and the souls of John Motte and my children, about the "town of Yarmouth, as the manner and custom is."\*

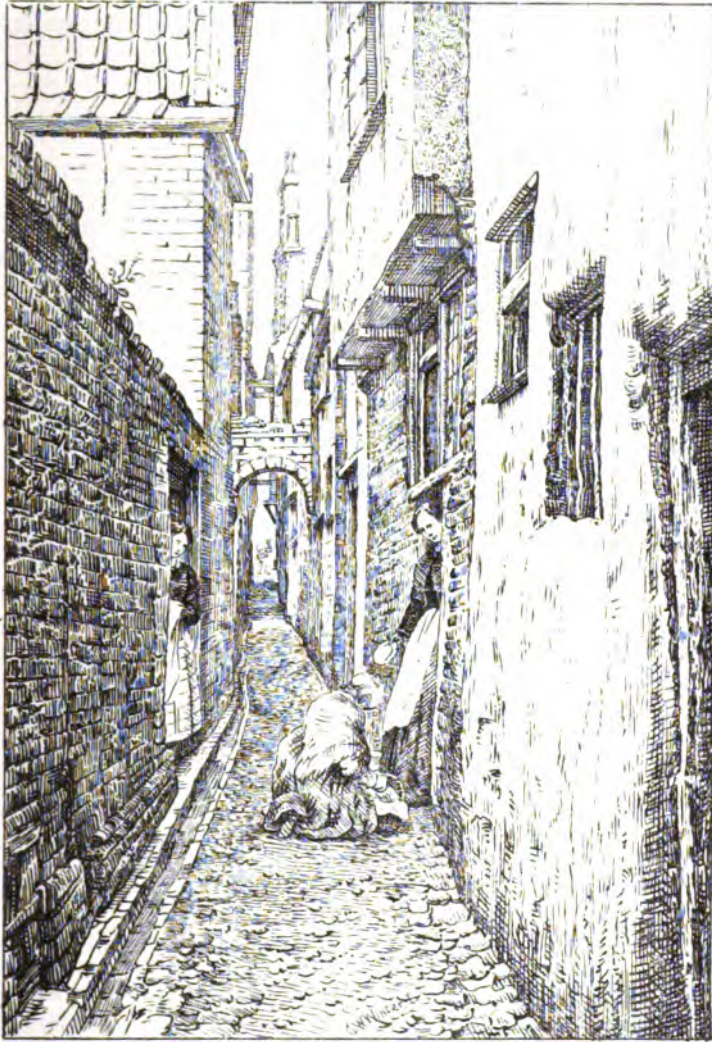
Another instance occurs in a deed made in 1379, whereby William Rake charged a messuage in *Middlegate* street, with an annual rent of 8d., to be paid to the bellmen and their successors for ever, to hold his anniversary on St. Andrew's day, by ringing and praying throughout the streets and rows, as the custom then was, for the souls of himself and Rose his wife.

At the head of these rows and along the streets, it was the custom to the end of the first quarter of the present century, for the boys of the town, on Plough Monday, to sing a rude metrical doxology. The following was one of the stanzas:—

*To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,  
All praise and glory be;  
As was, and is, and shall be still  
To all eternity.*

houses, always opened into the house; to have a door that opened into the street, was a peculiar privilege. To enter a doorway with the left foot first was considered a bad omen.

\* A writer of the 17th century says that in Edinburgh when any one died, it was the custom for the bellman to go about ringing the passing bell to acquaint the people therewith; and sometimes to bid them to the burial. *Harleian Miscellany*, vi. 121.



Row 89 (*Hans Hering's Row*), King's Great Yarmouth.



Then followed a stanza to each person of the Holy Trinity; succeeded by other stanzas mentioning the miracles of Christ, not in a very reverential manner. One example will suffice—

*The next great joy that Mary had,  
It was the joy of mine,  
To see her dear son Jesus  
Turn water into wine.*

The first stanza being throughout used as a refrain.\*

In the *East Anglian*, vol. 3, p. 201, will be found a number of these doxologies taken from a M.S. in the handwriting of the last century, attached to Playford's *Whole Book of Psalms*, 1701.

Up and down these rows the watchmen of former times, to the end of the first quarter of the present century, used to tread their way during the silent hours of the night, "crying the wind" for the information of sleepless merchants and anxious skippers. In a drawling but loud voice they proclaimed "E. is the wind, E., E.N.E.; past two

\* Plough Monday (sometimes called *Black Monday*) was the first Monday after twelfth day, when labour was re-commenced after the holy days of Christmas.

It was called Plough Monday because in former times the peasantry went about in procession, dancing and decked with ribbons, collecting money to support the lights which were burnt before images in the churches, to obtain a blessing upon the labours of the plough. The reformation put out the lights, but not the festival; and the money obtained was spent in public houses.

The following day was termed Whipping Tuesday, because upon it boys were accustomed to return to school. It was a Norfolk custom for boys to sing on *Shrove Tuesday*, and for employers to give them a breakfast—

*"On Shrove Tuesday morning, boys, at the first meal,  
"We hope that our master will give us cookeel."*

*Cookeel* being spiced bread. Fr. *coquille*.

People still partake of minced-pies, but without knowing that they are to be eaten in remembrance of the Nativity; and that they are typical of the precious body of the infant Saviour lying in the manger. It is absurd, therefore, to make them round shaped in modern fashion, or to eat them before Christmas. Hot cross buns and saffron bread continue to be eaten on Good Friday. They were anciently the only food allowed on that Fast, and were impressed with the sign of the cross.

o'clock, and a cloudy morning ;" or as the case might be.\* When the Lord of Rözmital, brother-in-law of the King of Bohemia, visited England in 1465, he landed at Sandwich, then the great port of entry from the Continent, and was surprised to find that every night the streets were paced by a band of men, occasionally blowing trumpets and horns and shouting from what quarter the wind came and the state of the weather.

The rows were not distinguished by any number until 1804 ; previously to which time they were known only by some name taken from that of an inhabitant at either end, or from the sign of some neighbouring ale-house. They were numbered from north to south, and the last row is still No. 145. Altogether they measure nearly eight miles in length.

In order to traverse these narrow rows and to convey goods and merchandize to the inhabitants, it was necessary to invent a vehicle



specially adapted to the purpose ; consequently a "Yarmouth Cart " was constructed, which is unlike any other carriage in the kingdom. It has a low sledge about twelve feet long, and about three feet six inches in breadth, being just sufficient to allow the carriage to pass up and down an ordinary row ; and its two small wheels which revolve on

\* Dr. Aikin, soon after taking up his residence in Yarmouth, writing to a friend said, "the cry of our night watchmen, 'N.N.E. is the wind—N.N.E.' has become familiar to us."

One of the most startling and eloquent sermons ever preached by Dr. Stanley, Bishop of Norwich, was from Isaiah xxi. 11—"Watchman, what of the night?"

a low axle, are, for economy of space, placed beneath the body of the cart. It is drawn by one horse; and the driver, when the cart is empty, stands upright on it like a Roman charioteer, and when laden, if he cannot sit upon the load, he walks by the side of the cart.

Similar carriages of a better sort, having a commodious seat, were used as pleasure cars until the close of the last century. They were dignified by the name of *Yarmouth Coaches*, and were usually painted red, blue, or green.



"People," says De Foe, "are carried here all over the town, and "from the seaside for sixpence, in what they call a coach; but it is only "a wheelbarrow drawn by one horse, without any covering."

They were used by the better class of inhabitants; and during the bathing season, there was always a supply of them for the use of visitors, by whom they could be hired for a few hours at 2s., driver included, if the services of the latter were required. "They are," says a writer in the 18th century, "the most whimsical carriages in the kingdom." The close proximity of the wheels under the body made them peculiarly unsafe, and they were frequently "capsized" when driven by reckless sailors. These "coaches" were annihilated by the tax imposed upon all carriages used for pleasure.\*

\* A strong resistance was made. A case was stated and argued before the judges, who, however, were unanimous that a Yarmouth coach, however peculiar and unfit for general use, was liable to a duty of £3 10s.; consequently these vehicles ceased to exist, for no one would pay a tax which amounted annually to one third of the value.

The Yarmouth cart for the carriage of goods, is said to have first come into use in the reign of Henry VII., and was hence called a *Harry-carry*. It was also called a troll cart or trolly. In 1599, it was ordered that no shod cart, that is a cart the wheels of which were bound with iron, should go over any gutter or pavement of stone within the town, for fear of doing damage.\* At the above period the cartage from the beach, where herrings were then landed, to the town, was 1d. per swill by day, and 1½d. per swill by night.

The formation of Regent street in 1813, giving a wide thoroughfare from east to west, greatly diminished the necessity for these carts. As the rapid goods train of the present day is to the former slow waggon, so is the light well-balanced fish cart now in use to the ponderous Yarmouth cart; and the latter will probably soon become extinct.

The houses which immediately succeeded the tents and huts of the first settlers, were made of a framework of timber, the intermediate spaces being filled in with clay. Some houses, however, must have been of a substantial character, and capable of being fortified, for we find that several of the inhabitants had licenses from the crown to crenellate their houses, that is to put battlements (*crenelles*) upon them for the purposes of defence.

Previously to the reign of Queen Elizabeth, most houses were covered with reeds or thatch, but in 1571 this kind of roof was "utterly forbidden."† The wood principally used was oak, then very abundant and cheap; and this wood, for the goodness of which England is

\* A writer in 1776 describes the wheels as being two feet nine inches high, and mostly made of one solid piece of poplar or ash, five inches thick without tire; but he adds that these solid wheels were not then so much used as they had previously been. The axletree was a cylindrical piece of oak, twelve inches thick, having an iron pin driven through the entire length.

† There is not, it is believed, a single thatched building remaining in Yarmouth, but a few are still to be found at Norwich. When houses were built principally of wood with thatched roofs, the danger of fire was great; and the destruction, whenever it occurred, disastrous. The conventual churches of the Carmelites and Dominicans were both destroyed by fires, which probably raged in their immediate neighbourhoods.

In 1703, a dreadful fire broke out, and several houses were blown up to prevent its spreading. They were probably at the North-end, for we find that the rubbish was carried out of the North-gate, at the town's charge.





Row, No: 142, South Quay.





remarkable, rendered these houses very durable. Half-timbered houses continued to be erected long after the general introduction of brick, and many of them are still standing. Chimnies in the houses of the lower orders were rare before the reign of Elizabeth. In 1555 the corporation made an ordinance that no one should let a house without having a sufficient chimney, under a penalty of £10. This fine was, it is recorded, inflicted in 1583, but was reduced to 2s. 6d. on the offender promising "to amend his fault."

Coals were imported from Newcastle about the commencement of the 14th century; previously to which logs of wood were alone used.\*

Before the introduction of glass, and indeed long afterwards, the shops were merely bulks projecting from the houses, having an overlapping "heading," and protected in front from the weather by wooden shutters. Merchants had their goods stored in their own houses for the sake of security; and the ground floor, or a part of it, was usually devoted to this purpose. The first floor was commonly supported upon beams projecting over the basement; and if the house possessed a second floor, this in like manner projected over the first. Examples may still be seen in many of the rows, but they are rapidly disappearing. The beam ends and corner posts supporting the upper floor were frequently elaborately carved, and testified the wealth and taste of the owner.† This mode of building was adopted in order to throw off the rain; gutters and water troughs not being then in common use.

The port of Yarmouth attained its greatest relative importance in the reign of Edward III., when it furnished the king with 43 ships and 1,083 mariners, being a much larger number than could be obtained from any other port in the kingdom.‡

In 1382, King Richard II. "hearinge," says Manship the elder, "good reporte of the towne of Greate Yermouthe, came in his own

\* In 1239, Henry III. licensed the burgesses of Newcastle to dig for coal, that they might be able more readily to pay the fee farm rent of £100, in consideration of which King John had enfranchised that town.

† There are good examples in the High streets at Bungay and Halesworth.

‡ Bristol supplied 23 ships and 608 men; Newcastle, 17 ships and 314 men; Hull, 16 ships and 283 men.

"proper person unto the said towne, and did vewe the same, and  
 "likenge verye well thereof, did graunte such privileges as before that  
 "tyme had been by himself revoked uppon the slanderous report of  
 "the men of Leistoſte."

The French Queen, and Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk, her husband, came in 1514, "to this towne of Yermouthe, and were  
 "receyved and enterteyned for the space of thre daies; and took greate  
 "good liking to the towne, and of the scitivation of the same, and  
 "promesed that they would procure the king's maiestie himself to come  
 "to see yt;" but Henry VIII. never got so far, although in 1510 he walked barefooted from Barsham to Our Lady of Walsingham.

Manship the elder informs us that, in consequence of the success which attended the cutting of the seventh and present haven in 1559, the town during the next forty years "greatlie flourished in the buildinge of houses," and certainly such portions of them as remain to the present time, give ample evidence of the taste and wealth of the merchants in those days.

Manship the younger, writing in 1619, asserts that "for time out  
 "of mind, no sooner hath God, by His blessing to a Yarmouth man,  
 "given any small ability, but that the building of a house to dwell in,  
 "is the first thing he intendeth and delighteth in." He goes on to assert that in his time Yarmouth contained private houses, which in respect to their "magnificency, the matter, or the form of building, not  
 "any maritime town of this kingdom is much to be preferred before  
 "it;" in proof of which he says that "the very sight thereof caused  
 "that thrice renowned, and of Europe the grave and wise counsellor,  
 "William, Lord Burleigh, Lord High Treasurer of England, and  
 "Robert, Earl of Leicester, in the year of our Lord God, 1578 (at such  
 "time of Queen Elizabeth, of happy memory, came in progress to  
 "Norwich, and themselves with many others of the nobles, came to  
 "Yarmouth, where they were most worthily entertained in martial  
 "manner, and at the Priory, at the town's charges, royally feasted, and  
 "in like manner by the principal merchants of Yarmouth attended),  
 "in my hearing, highly to commend the stately uniform buildings then  
 "in it, which, since that time (praised be God) is more than redoubled."

When King Charles II. visited Yarmouth in 1671, he expressed himself, says Echard in his *History of England*, as "infinitely pleased with the town and port;" stating that "he had not thought he had such a place in his dominions;" and Matthew Stevenson, an old local poet, in his *Norfolk Drollery* published in 1673, after chronicling this visit, exclaims—

"Farewell, fair Yarmouth; and again farewell,

"Where noble hearts in noble houses dwell."

Defoe, speaking of Yarmouth quay says, "in this pleasant and agreeable range of houses are some magnificent buildings, and among the rest, the Custom house, and Town hall, and some merchants' houses, which look like little palaces rather than the dwellinghouses of private men."\*

These now appear as extravagant laudations, but we must remember the periods at which they were written, when the buildings in Yarmouth were, in fact, far in advance of other towns, and when Liverpool, Southampton, and other great and flourishing places were far below it in wealth and population.

The houses of the 16th and 17th centuries, with their fronts of cut flint, or moulded bricks, large boarded gables, stone dressings, high pitched roofs, rounded chimneys, ornamental ironwork, quaint external carvings, ample porches, large oblong and many lighted windows and latticed casements, had a much more striking and picturesque appearance than those of modern times. Many of these mansions remained intact until the close of the last century, when the rage for altering every thing that was old set in. The fine old fronts were cased over with white bricks, then recently introduced; merchants' marks, tapestry irons, and other external ornaments disappeared; unmeaning and useless parapets were run up to hide high pitched roofs and dormer windows; the old porches were removed and modern "porticos" substituted; and the house made to appear externally as if recently

\* *Tour through Great Britain by a Gentleman*, 1724, sometimes confounded with Mackey's *Journey through England*, 1722. The whole work will repay a perusal, but it may be asked, what is there of Defoe's writing that will not? He resided for some years at Bury St. Edmund's. It will be remembered that he makes Yarmouth the place where *Robinson Crusoe* first experienced the perils of the sea.

built. In the interior the wainscoting, tapestry, and leather work were torn down ; or the fine old panels and sumptuous chimney pieces were painted white.

The folly of this is now generally admitted, and much would be given if what was so ruthlessly destroyed could be restored ; for the fascination which clings to an old building can never be revived in a modern habitation.

In bye gone times when a man built a house it was a solid structure, with deep foundations, thick and firm walls, strong beams and rafters of enduring oak or chesnut, made to stand and be used for generations. In such a house he would pass his life, and when he died it would descend to his children, until the family became extinct. It was their birthplace ; the central point for the gathering of the family, where the head always resided, and where they were accustomed to meet. It was their *home* ; the scene of that domestic life the influences of which have made England great and powerful. Such houses are not built in towns at the present day.

The MARKET PLACE is usually in the centre of every old town ; and that at Yarmouth is one of the largest in the kingdom, containing nearly three acres. Originally it was still more spacious, for it extended in breadth from the houses on the west side to the town wall.

The first building erected on the east side was the hospital of the Blessed Mary the Virgin, which was founded by Thomas Fastolfe in the reign of Edward I. ; and obtained a grant of all the ground extending from Market gate to Pudding gate.\*

It received numerous benefactions.

William Gerbregge, in 1278, gave by will an annual rent for the maintenance of two priests ; and by other bequests the revenue became sufficient to support eight poor men and as many women, each having a separate apartment, and the house was governed by a custos or warden.

In 1341 Richard de Frizeland made a grant which had this preamble : "The work of charity is to support the weak, to visit the "blind, lame, and decrepit, and to comfort others laden with other

\* Some account of this hospital will be found in the appendix to Manship's *History*, p. 430.

"infirmities; whereupon some worthy burgesses of the town of Great Yarmouth, inspired with the special grace of God to keep and maintain charity, erected an hospital in honor of the most Blessed Virgin Mary, a hundred years past, in the north leet of the town, that the aforesaid infirm and poor, especially the co-burgesses of the town might have maintenance and support for the term of life, according to the custom of the town aforesaid hitherto obtained."

A chapel was then erected, in which daily to celebrate divine service, and a chaplain appointed at the annual stipend of £5. Disputes however arose between the corporation and the prior and convent of the Holy Trinity at Norwich, as to the government of this hospital, which resulted in the former obtaining in 1386 full power and authority over it, and thenceforth they annually appointed one of their own body to be the custos.

John Yue, in 1349, gave a messuage to this hospital, and half a mark of silver, and the like to St. Mary's light in St. Nicholas' church.\*

William de Stalham, in 1379, gave two fishhouses, so that the brothers and sisters might faithfully and for ever keep the anniversaries therein mentioned.†

Richard Fastolfe was a principal benefactor. By his will in 1356 he devised yearly rents to the amount of £4 9s. to Adam Bacon his chaplain, to celebrate for his soul and the soul of Petronella his wife; and after the chaplain's decease he gave such rents to the bailiffs and commonalty of Yarmouth, for the aid and support of the brothers and sisters of St. Mary's hospital, so that they might have the souls of

\* He appointed Nicholas Stanford, chaplain of the Carnary, an executor, and by him the will was probably drawn. He gave to the high altar of St. Nicholas' church, 20s.; to every house of Friars in Yarmouth and Southtown, 10s.; and to the guild of St. Peter, 3s. 4d.

† He gave to the fabric of St. Nicholas' church, 20s.; to St. Mary's light, 20s.; to each house of Lepers, 10s.; to Swanington Church, 40s.; to Stalham church, 20s.; to each house of Friars, 5 marks.

Members of this family frequently filled the office of bailiff during the 14th century. They no doubt came originally from Stalham, as many of their wills contain bequests to the church there.

himself and wife recommended in their prayers, and their anniversaries for ever kept. He also gave to the hospital a legacy of 13s. 4d.\*

In 1419 the hospital was repaired; and John Fordham, Bishop of Ely, granted an indulgence of forty days, to all who would assist in the work.

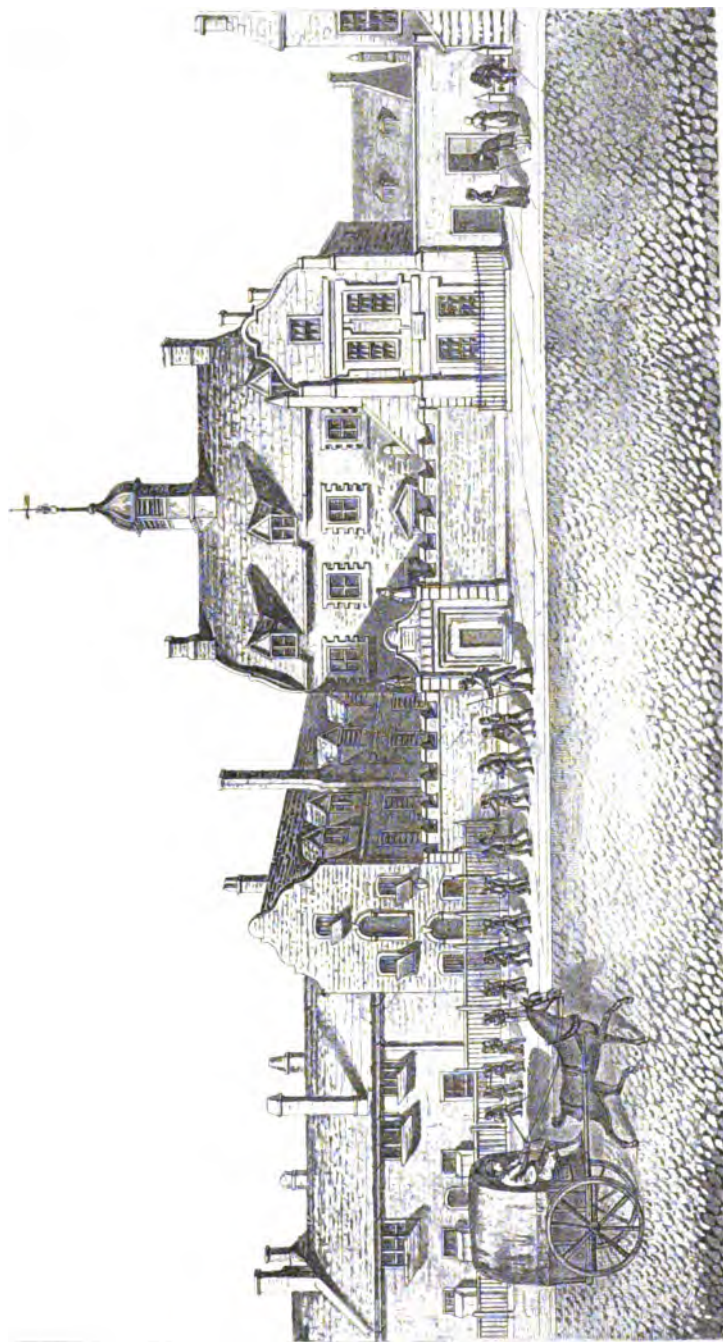
After the reformation the buildings were converted to many useful purposes. In 1540 Margaret Ufford, late of the monastery of Denny, was allowed to occupy a tenement and a little garden near the chapel; and Sir Multon, a priest, had the grant of the garden next the chapel for life.† In 1550 Christopher Haylett, the then custos, delivered up the bell to Mr. Bailiff Betts;‡ and in the following year the chapel was despoiled, and all its contents sold, including "two altars of alabaster," the encaustic tiles before the high altar, and the altar stone itself. The buildings and grounds were mostly let; but some of the rooms were appropriated for the stowage of arms and ammunition for the queen's forces encamped on the denes during the alarm caused by the Spanish Armada. Again, in 1673, when Col. Fitzgerald's forces were here, this part of the hospital was used as a military store; and it is a singular circumstance that the hospital continued to be so occupied by Government down to the year 1724. It was customary in former times to keep a supply of corn to be used in seasons of scarcity; and the same, called the town stock, was stored in

\* He gave to his wife for life a capital messuage at Caister, and all his jewels and moveables; and a mill on the denes, which on her decease he devised to Richard, son of Matilda Fastolfe.

† The title of "Sir" was given to priests duly ordained, who had taken the degree of B.A., whilst "Master" was accorded to those who proceeded to that of M.A. The first title was properly given to those who resided within the university limits, and was prefixed to the surname (the christian name being usually omitted), but we find it frequently given to officiating priests. Thus "Dominus Peter," parson of Billockby church and Dean of Yarmouth, was, in 1371, presented for hearing and determining causes in his court christian, which the bailiffs contended did not rightly belong to him; and in 1535, Sir Cotton is named as one of the priests in St. Nicholas' church.

‡ The Curfew, or *Couvre fue*, bell was kept here; and continued to be rung at eight o'clock every evening, until the destruction of the old buildings.

In 1291, no wine was to be drawn after Curfew bell had rung.



THE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL.





the hospital.\* So early as 1576, a portion of the hospital was converted into a house of correction. In 1649, principally by the exertions of Edward Owner, who contributed largely to the scheme out of his own purse, measures were taken to establish a workhouse (meaning a place where the poor could be set to work, not a place of compulsory idleness), and in 1663 the storehouse was converted to this use, another place being found "to lay the king's ammunition in," (which seems to have been the chapel) and in the following year extensive alterations were made, including a square court in front, and a house at the end with a hall "well cellered." In 1724 great alterations took place; the military stores were removed from St. Mary's chapel, which was then converted to other uses, the workhouse was greatly enlarged, the then bridewell was taken down and another was erected out of the adjoining butchery, and fitted to receive "idle wenches and other disorderly persons;" and the buildings then assumed the appearance which they retained until they were all swept away in 1842.

So far back as 1551, the corporation appropriated the great hall of the then dissolved hospital of St. Mary for the purposes of a Grammar school "for all the inhabitants," and assigned a lodging for the master, who was usually a clergyman of the church of England; and this school continued to exist until 1797, when it was closed, the Rev. Francis Turner being the last master.† In 1634 Owner proposed that a part of the hospital should be fitted up as a school for the

\* This measure although contrary to the principles of political economy, and now unnecessary, was in former times a wise precaution. Hunger breaks through stone walls, and the insurrection of the belly is always formidable. In 1740 there was a scarcity. The mob arose and plundered a vessel at the quay, about to depart with a cargo of wheat; and they compelled all corn dealers to sell at 2s. per bushel. The next day the magistrates sent to Norwich for some dragoons. On their arrival the mob remained quiet; but the next day at the sound of a horn, the people assembled and rushed to the Market cross, where they again attempted to dictate prices, but many of them were captured and sent to gaol, and the disturbance was suppressed.

† De Quincy says that a grammar school was not solely for teaching grammar, for although the word *grammatica* certainly does mean grammar, it is also the best latin word for literature. A grammaticus was what the French express by the word *litterateur*, and a school which professes to teach *grammatica* also taught literature in its widest and most liberal sense.

training of poor children ; and in 1650, principally through his exertions, aided by his liberal contributions, such a school was established. Since that time these buildings have been usually called the Children's hospital ; and the school now exists in a more extended and useful form. It was at one time the practice to board and lodge a certain number of boys and girls ; compelling them to wear a peculiar costume, the *hospital* idea not having been quite got rid of ;\* but now the parents are left to perform this part of their duty, and a larger number of day scholars can be admitted, who are allowed to wear what dress they please, so that it be clean and decent. In 1679, Paul Riseburgh, "a barber in the South-end," was paid 10s. for every child he should teach, when the latter "could read well in the Bible." The schools, both of the hospital and workhouse, are now supplied with efficient masters.†

The present red brick building erected in 1842, from a design by Mr. John Brown,‡ stands at the back of the site of the former buildings, and abuts close upon the town wall.

The Stocks, objects of terror in all Market places in former times, stood opposite the bridewell ; and were last used in 1816.§

\* These dresses are shown by two small statues, very well carved, taken from the entrance gate of the old building and placed outside the front of the modern one.

† The annexed is a view of the Children's hospital, as it appeared before its demolition. The building to the left or north side was the workhouse ; that to the right or south side was the residence of the schoolmaster, the parlour of which was used as a justice hall, and here the mayor sat every Saturday morning to hear complaints. Further to the right is the bridewell, now also demolished. It is much to be regretted that an old building, possessing so much historical interest, should not have been preserved. It might have been altered to meet the requirements of the present age, but nothing would then do but to sweep every thing away. The only redeeming feature in the present plan, is the garden in front, which is the result of an accident, it having been intended to erect houses there, but no one could be found to take the sites.

‡ As we shall have frequent occasion to mention this architect, we shall in future, for brevity, denominate him Brown only.

§ A few years later they fell into decay and were removed, which gave rise to the following epigram :—

*The pillory broken, the stocks fallen down,  
Brought credit and honest report to the town ;  
But this seemed to all a most strange paradox,  
That credit should rise with the fall of the stocks.*

Something in the nature of stocks has existed from a remote period. In a

The Children's hospital is possessed of an estate (now vested in the charity trustees) in the county of Tipperary, which was acquired by the foresight of Edward Owner, when he represented the town in the Long Parliament. At his suggestion the corporation advanced £500 (to which he added £100), and lent the same to Parliament towards defraying the expenses of suppressing the then rebellion in Ireland; upon the understanding that the leaders were to share in the forfeited estates. By a certificate, enrolled in chancery, granted by commissioners acting under an order of the council of state, in 1654, confirmed by "an Act for the speedy and effectual satisfaction of the adventurers for "lands in Ireland, and of the arrears due to the soldiers there, and of "other public debts, and for the encouragement of protestants to "plant and inhabit Ireland," 2159 a. 3 r. 4 p. of land, part of the forfeited possessions of the Earl of Ormond, were granted to the corporation of Great Yarmouth and their successors. The "gentle Shuir" of Spencer flows close by; and the beauty and fertility of this part of Ireland justifies its Gaelic name, "the vale of honey." When Cromwell paused on the brow of the hill, just above the ancient castellated residence of the Ormond family, and saw the loveliness before him, he turned to his veteran soldiers and exclaimed, "this is indeed a land worth fighting for." When this estate was allotted to the corporation there was considerable difficulty in identifying the lands, and still more in taking possession of them. In 1656 the corporation wrote to "the Lord Corbet, Lord Chief Baron of Ireland," who had long been their recorder and representative in Parliament, entreating his assistance about "a castle" which they claimed, but which had been taken possession of by some one else. In 1663, the title of the corporation was "questioned" by the Duke of Ormond and by "The O'Neale." It was successfully defended. Such, however, was the difficulty of keeping possession, that in 1678 the

specimen of those used by the Romans, found at Pompeii, were the leg bones of four skeletons. Sometimes the stocks bore inscriptions. One at Hapton in Norfolk had the following:—

*"Those that fear God—and keep an honest name,  
 "Shall not come here—and undergo the shame;  
 "Then you that suffer—don't true justice blame."*

corporation offered to sell the whole estate for £1300, but could not find a purchaser. They then settled it with other property upon the "Children's hospital," estimating its worth at £65 a year, but for a long time they could get no rents, for the agent employed was either not hardy enough to collect them or honest enough to pay them over, except under pressure and in small sums. At last having got an Irishman as minister of the parish, the corporation applied to his brother, Major Love, to assist them; and in 1712 appointed him their agent, whereupon he took up his residence at Doneraile. Wearied out with their troubles as landlords, the corporation leased their Irish estate to Richard Hamerton, Esq.,\* for 1000 years, at an annual rent of £100, and a septennial fine of £100; and under this lease the property is still held. But the troubles of the corporation were not over; they had great difficulty in obtaining payment of this moderate rent, and recourse was again had to the services of Major Love, in acknowledgement of which the corporation, in 1743, presented him with the freedom of the borough in a silver box. In 1788 Lord Earlsford, then Lord Chief Justice of Ireland, offered £3,300 for the estate, subject to the lease, which the corporation accepted; but his lordship refused to abide by his offer.†

To the north of St. Mary's hospital is a house, standing back, which in the early part of the seventeenth century was assigned by the corporation as a residence for Miles Corbet, whom they had elected to

\* Of this family was the late General John Millet Hamerton, C.B., Colonel of the 55th regiment, who resided at Orchardston house, near Clonmel, and was held in much esteem at Tipperary. He died in 1855, aged 77.

† In 1863 the charity trustees sent Mr. Morant to Ireland to survey and make a map of this estate, which lies near the town of Carrick-upon-Suir, and now comprises 1,600 acres for the most part fertile. The land, which forms part of the valley of the Suir, is tolerably flat, except a portion on the mountain side which rises to an elevation of three hundred feet, and the whole is laid out as pasture land. Its boundary is within a mile of the Waterford and Limerick Railway.

In 1815 a case was submitted to Sir John Leach and Mr. John Bell, then eminent chancery barristers, as to whether the above lease could not be set aside, "as an improper lease of a charity estate;" but they were of opinion that unless it could be shown that the original grant to the corporation was for a charitable purpose, and unless it could be proved that the lessee had notice of the charity, the lease could not be impeached.

fill the office of recorder, and who was destined to play a very important part both in local and national affairs.



The Norfolk family of Corbet, a branch of an ancient Shropshire house, settled at Sprowston, near Norwich, early in the 16th century.

About that time a great controversy was going on between the town and Sir William Paston of Caister castle, touching boundaries; and when the Duke of Norfolk, holding a special commission from the king, came to Yarmouth in 1544 to inspect the fortifications (upon which occasion he was elected high steward), he promised to intercede with his Majesty to have the dispute settled; and in the following year he obtained a royal commission for that purpose, in which John Corbet, Esq., was named a commissioner; and that appears to have been the first introduction of the Corbet family to the town.

In 1625 Sir John Corbet, with two other deputy lieutenants (Sir John Wentworth, Knt., and Francis Mapes, Esq.), came to Yarmouth and inspected the fortifications, for the purpose of reporting as to "the strength of the same for defence in that time of doubt against any invasion to be attempted by the enemy." Corbet and Mapes signed a report which is dated from Sprowston. It is given *in extenso* by Swinden, p. 109.

Probably Sir John pleased the corporation by his behaviour on this occasion, for they made an ordinance that "burgesses to Parliament" might be chosen either out of or in the town, and forthwith elected him and Edward Owner; the latter being a member of their own body. In the second Parliament in the same year Sir John was re-elected with Alderman Thomas Johnson. While in Parliament he refused to contribute to a forced loan; and was in consequence, with other members, committed to prison. When the tables were turned, and the king a prisoner, Sir John Corbet was named in the commission for his trial. He sat for one day only, and then by the hands of Col. Harvey sent an excuse for his absence.

Miles Corbet was the second son of Sir Thomas Corbet, of Sprowston. He studied the law; and was called to the bar at Lincoln's-Inn.

In 1625 Rice Gwyn, Esq., having resigned, the corporation elected Miles Corbet recorder; making it a condition that he should become a resident within the borough. They presented him with his freedom; and in the following year returned him to Parliament with Sir John Wentworth of Somerleyton.

In the following year a contest commenced in the corporation, which became divided into two great parties, one in favor of altering the government of the town from two bailiffs to a mayor; the other for maintaining the ancient custom. The former having appealed to the king in council, Corbet was sent to London to appear and make defence; and the innovators, who appear to have been of the king's party, were defeated.

About the same time, the corporation were engaged in a controversy with the dean and chapter of Norwich, respecting the ecclesiastical patronage of the parish, which contest was carried to most extraordinary lengths. The corporation claimed the right of nominating the minister of the parish, which was denied by the dean and chapter. Upon a vacancy occurring, the latter appointed the Rev. Mr. Gammon, whilst the former nominated the Rev. John Brinsley, who attempted to officiate; whereupon he was cited before the High Commission Court, and dismissed. This excited great discontent; and, determined not to be deprived of the ministry of Brinsley, the corporation appointed him to the office of lecturer, which they had created. As might have been expected, Brinsley soon quarrelled with the incumbent, Mr. Brooks (who had been nominated by the dean and chapter to succeed Mr. Gammon), and the result was that proceedings were instituted against Brinsley for causing a disturbance in the church, and an inhibition was personally served upon him by Mr. Brooks himself in the church; whereupon the latter was brought before the bailiffs "for a disturbance," and, by the advice of Corbet, the minister of the parish was actually sent to gaol; the two bailiffs, Thomas Green and Ezechias Harris, the Recorder, and Henry Davy, another magistrate, signing his commitment. For this outrageous proceeding they were all cited before the king in council, and Green and Davy were in their turn sent to prison "during his Majesty's pleasure." Harris was

excused on account of sickness, and Corbet made his submission.\* In 1631 he was made assembly clerk and clerk of the sessions, probably with the view, by increasing his emoluments, of inducing him to reside in the town, which he appears to have avoided doing, for in 1640 the corporation resolved that "the recorder must come and reside in the town, or not hold his place as clerk of the courts." The town clerkship he had resigned in 1633. When Charles I. called his last Parliament, great efforts were made to secure the return of members favourable to the court; and the Earl of Dorset, then high steward, wrote to the bailiffs, strongly recommending Sir John Suckling, a "very

\* Brinsley was born at Ashby-de-la-Zouch, in Leicestershire, where his father was a minister and a schoolmaster. His mother was a sister of Bishop Hall. Before he was fourteen years of age he was admitted to Emmanuel college, Cambridge; where he became a scholar and where he took his degree. While yet a student he accompanied Dr. Hall, then Dean of Worcester, to the synod at Dort. His liberal opinions probably recommended him to the leaders of the popular party in Yarmouth; and to be a supporter of Brinsley, in opposition to the dean and chapter, was then a political test. When dismissed from Yarmouth, he was appointed to the Rectory of Somerleyton by Sir John Wentworth, and thither his preaching attracted many hearers from Yarmouth. The act of uniformity drove him from the church. Although a man of moderate principles, he seems to have been inflexible upon some of the points which divided the clergy; and is said to have refused considerable preferment. He died in 1665, aged 66, and was buried in the north aisle of St. Nicholas' church. He had a character for piety and extensive learning, and was the author of many theological works, some of which were printed by Peter Cole, of Leaden Hall, who, on the title page, placed his own shield of arms—party per pale indented *arg.* and *sa.*, within a bordure counterchanged, a bull passant counterchanged.

In his *Christian's Cabala*, printed in 1662, he states that it was then 37 years since he had been "by a Divine Providence sent to exercise his ministerial functions" in Yarmouth. He says that his first entrance within its walls was "upon the same day that the dread sovereign, King Charles I., was there with great solemnity, and with the universal acclamation and joy of all that were present, proclaimed." He adds, "and of this my entrance, I hope I may, without boasting, say unto you what Paul doth of his unto the Thessalonians (1 Thess. ii. 1), that it hath not been altogether in vain; it having been my desire to follow his steps, in making what improvement I might of such liberty and opportunity as the same Providence hath been pleased to put into my hand, in preaching to you the gospel of God."

Brinsley left a son, Robert, who, ejected from the university, studied physic and took his degree at Leyden. He afterwards practised his profession at Yarmouth, where he was elected chamberlain in 1681, and in 1692 he was appointed water bailiff. There are now no descendants.



noble gentleman, of able parts, who was both ready and willing to serve the towne as well out of Parliament as in Parliament." The Earl of Northumberland, then lord high admiral, also endeavoured to influence their choice, by recommending Sir Henry Martin, judge of the high court of admiralty; but the corporation knew well the struggle in which the country was then engaged, and resisting all blandishments, again returned Miles Corbet as their representative, with Edward Owner, a tried member of their own body. Upon the breaking out of the civil war in 1642, the town immediately declared for the Parliament. During the contest which followed, Miles Corbet was a very influential member of the long Parliament, always supporting extreme measures; so that when the royalists were utterly defeated, he was appointed one of the commissioners before whom the king was to be arraigned. He sat as one of the judges of his sovereign, and was the last who signed the warrant for his execution. He immediately sent down to the bailiffs a proclamation by Parliament, prohibiting the acknowledgment of Charles Stuart, or any other to be king. He was made clerk of the court of wards, one of the two registrars of chancery, chairman of the committee of Parliament for scandalous ministers, and manager of the sequestrations. The duties of the two latter offices rendered him so obnoxious, that he was glad to relinquish them, and go to Ireland as one of the commissioners for managing the affairs of that country; and he resigned the recordership upon being appointed chief baron of the exchequer in Ireland. On the death of Cromwell, the corporation again elected Miles Corbet to represent the borough in Parliament, with Sir John Palgrave for his colleague; a choice most remarkable when it is borne in mind that the return of the king was then all but certain, and Corbet was making preparations to fly for his life. This choice was also so unpopular, that the freemen at large insisted upon their right to vote, and they chose Sir John Potts and Sir William D'Oyley, two determined royalists; and Parliament set aside the election by the corporation. At the restoration, Corbet fled to Hanau in Germany, but being craftily induced to visit Delft, he was there seized and carried to London, where he was tried for high treason and condemned. He was dragged through the streets

from the Tower to Tyburn, and there hanged and quartered, "defending what he did to the king to be just," which Pepys, who was an eye witness, thought "very strange."\*

The house in which Corbet occasionally resided, subsequently became the residence of the successive lecturers appointed by the corporation to assist in the services of the church, until 1784 when it was sold, and the salary of the then lecturer, the Rev. Richard Turner, was increased by £20 a year.†

It is now a public house called the Weavers' Arms.

"Come, landlord, bring the books with magic charms,

"All fours we play, when at the Weavers' arms ;

"Sixpence a game, I lay on Tommy Slaver,

" 'Tis done, you dog, and laid you by a weaver.' "†

"A little further," says White, in his *Eastern England*, "there is "the Fisherman's hospital, with its curious gables and dormers, "terminating in finals, showing us what the builder, in 1702, regarded "as an appropriate style. A ship amidst waves, carved in relief, is "placed above an inner doorway ; and a statue of charity, supported "by a benefaction box, stands in the court."

Above the building, fronting this court, there is an open cupola. The pedestals on either side the gate supported statues which have been removed.

Charles II., considering how much fishermen were addicted to beer, and being desirous of encouraging the Yarmouth fishery,

\* The Corbets bore *or*. a raven *proper* ; and for a crest, a squirrel sejant cracking a nut *proper*, with the motto *Deus pascit corvos*. Corbet signifies a raven ; and in Scotland the name is varied to Corby, as in the thrilling ballad commencing—

"As I gaed down by yon house-een,

"Two Corbies there were setting their lane ;

"The one unto the other did say ;—

"O ! where shall we gae dine to day ?"

On the day the king was beheaded, a tree was planted at Sprowston to commemorate the event. After the restoration the Sprowston estate was purchased by Sir Thomas Adams, by whose family it was sold to Sir Lambert Blackwell ; and it is now the property of Sir Henry Stracey, Bart., of Rackheath Park.

† There is an engraved view of this house on Corbridge's map.

‡ David Service's *Tour*, p. 7.

granted an annual sum of £160 out of the excise, which the Earl of Danby, in his order on the commissioners, directs to be paid to the owners, adventurers, and fishermen of Yarmouth, "for provision of beer." When the corporation erected these alms houses "for decayed fishermen," this yearly payment was applied towards the maintenance of the inmates, and it continued to be so received and applied until the repeal of the beer duty; and finally ceased in 1847.\*

The administration of this hospital, formerly in the hands of the corporation, is now in those of the charity trustees.

Among the present inmates is a fisherman who, in the prime of life, was struck blind by lightning when at sea.

\* See M. 269, 285; and P. C. 89, 131, 220, 290.



## CHAPTER II.

## St. Nicholas' Church.

"Say, sacred edifice, thyself with years  
 "Grown grey—how long hast stood  
 "Thy weather-braving tower, and silent marked  
 "The human leaf in constant bud and fall?  
 "The generations of deciduous man,  
 "How often hast thou seen them pass away!"—HURDIS.



FIVE rows of lime trees form pleasant avenues from the Marketplace to the Parish church,\* of which sacred edifice it is no part of the design of this work to give a history, as that has already been done in the *Continuation to Manship*, p. 109.

We have seen that, soon after the permanent settlement of the inhabitants, a small church, dedicated to St. Bennet, was erected. This, at the commencement of the twelfth century, gave place to a much larger structure erected by Herbert de Lozinga, the first Bishop of Norwich, completed in 1119, and dedicated to St. Nicholas, the patron of mariners.†

It was very different from the church which we now see, for it consisted of a portion only of the present nave, having small aisles with lean-to roofs, a central tower, small transepts and a chancel.

\* Many old and decayed trees have, in late years, been removed and new ones planted. It is earnestly to be hoped that the hand of innovation, more destructive than that of time, will never be permitted to displace them altogether.

In former ages, parishioners were anxious for the preservation of trees in or near churchyards, believing them to have the power of absorbing noxious vapours. By the 36, Ed. I. s. 2, "Parsons" were prohibited from "presuming to fell them unadvisedly."

† Before the reformation the model of a ship was suspended in this church, as an emblem of the patron Saint; for says Peter of Langtoft—

"The bishop, Saint Nicholas, his help is ay redie  
 "To shipmen in alle cos, when thei on him crië."

Sir William Denny, in his *Pelicanicidium*, likens a church to an inverted ship. "The roof," says he, "is the keel; the walls, the sides; the floor, the deck; the east end, the prow or forecastle; the central tower, the mast; and the west end, the poop."

Some Norman work still remains; and when the south aisle was taken down in 1869, for the purpose of being rebuilt, the Norman tower, with its superstructure of early English, was laid bare, and its original proportions distinctly seen.\*

As the town augmented in population and wealth, so did the church of St. Nicholas increase in size, until it became, as it now is, the largest Parish church in the kingdom.†

The borough rolls are full of entries respecting the repair and enlargement of this church from time to time, some of which are very curious. In 1296 John, servant of Gilbert de Hardele, sued Simon le Parmenter, for breach of contract for not providing a ship to carry stone, for the use of St. Nicholas' church, he having received 2s. "in earnest." The plaintiff recovered, and the defendant was amerced.

Large as this church is, there was, nevertheless, an intention of extending it; for in 1330 a new building was commenced at the west end, called "Bachelor's aisle," as its cost was to be defrayed by the young men of the town. It was to be 107 feet from north to south, and 47 feet from east to west. Considerable progress had been made, the walls being sixty feet from the ground, when the works were suddenly stopped by an outbreak of the plague.‡ They were never

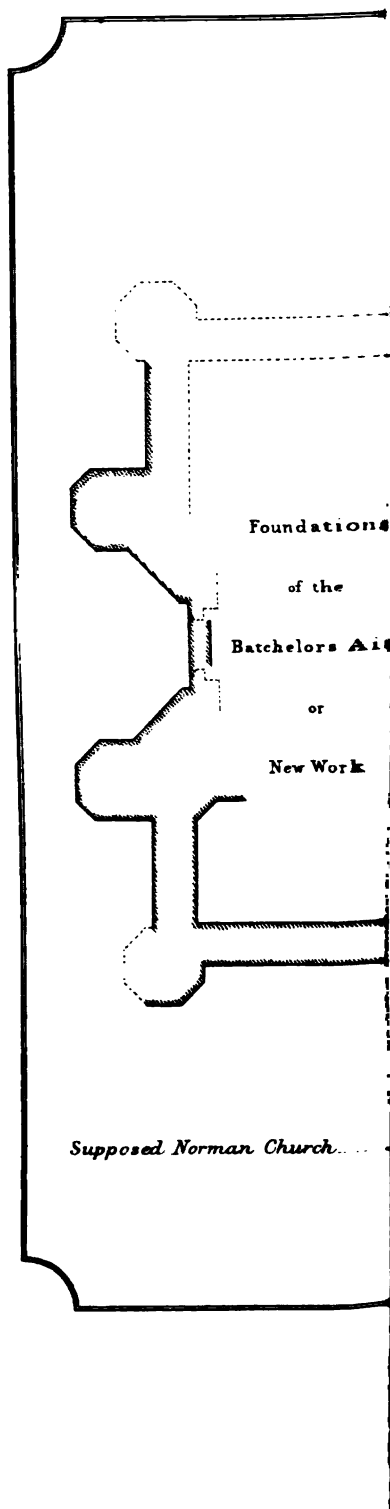
\* Among the additional M.S.S. in the British Museum (*Kerrick's Collections*, 6,751 and 6,759), there is a ground plan of St. Nicholas' church, before the aisles of the nave were enlarged, from which it appears that there was then a chancel transept.

† It covers more ground; measuring in length 230 feet, by 108 feet in breadth. Its internal superficial area is 23,085 feet, whilst the areas of its nearest rivals are as follows:—

St. Michael.....	Coventry.....	23,080.
St. Botolph.....	Boston.....	22,270.
St. Nicholas .....	Newcastle .....	20,110.
Holy Trinity .....	Hull.....	20,036.
Holy Trinity .....	Southwark .....	18,200.

4,000 persons can be accommodated on the floor of St. Nicholas' church.

‡ This fatal malady was called the black death, because the inflammatory boils and tumours of the glands, by which it was accompanied, assumed, as indicative of decomposition, the appearance of black spots upon the skin. These occasionally appeared all over the body, either singly or confluent. An account of it is given by Hecker in his *Epidemics of the Middle Ages*, translated with notes by Dr. Babington. It is supposed to have originated in China; and after desolating the continent





resumed, and what had been erected was allowed to fall into ruin. The walls however remained until 1650, when some of the great stones were taken down and carried to the haven's mouth, where they were employed in the repair of the piers. In 1658 Colonel Briscoe and Lieut-Colonel Stile obtained a further portion to be employed in strengthening the fortifications; and, 1714, the churchwardens obtained a faculty\* from the Bishop of Norwich, authorizing them to pull down what then remained of the "new work," as it was called, and to use the same in the construction of St. George's chapel, and thus an interesting and magnificent ruin was finally destroyed.†

St. Nicholas' church probably attained to its greatest state of magnificence towards the close of the 15th century. It was then open from end to end; the windows were filled with stained glass;‡ the

of Europe, passed from France into England. The inhabitants of Yarmouth closely packed in ill-ventilated houses, standing thickly in the rows, undrained and unscavengered, fell easy victims. There died in one year (1348) more than seven thousand persons, which so reduced the number of inhabitants, that the living could scarcely bury the dead. Numerous houses stood in all parts of the town,

"..... like tombs,

"Empty, or filled with corpses."

They remained "desolate" for years, and it took two centuries to replenish the population.

\* This faculty is printed *in extenso* in the *East Anglian*, vol. ii. p. 293.

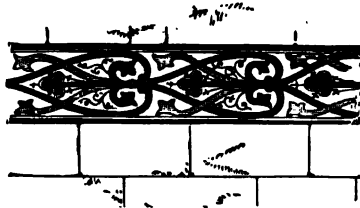
† In 1860 Mr. Morant excavated the ground to the west of the church, and discovered the foundations of the "new work," which seemed to prove an intention of erecting a very fine west front, having two lofty and massive towers, the walls of which were eight feet in thickness, and between them a magnificent central doorway, forty feet wide. Stone posts were then put down to mark its boundaries.

When the S. W. pinnacle was rebuilt in 1870, the foundations of the "new work" were laid bare; and, embedded in the original early English pinnacle, the jamb of an archway, with rich perpendicular mouldings, was discovered, facing eastward, leading to a belief that an enriched doorway was contemplated. In the annexed ground plan, the dimensions of the "new work" have been traced.

‡ Upon opening a door at the foot of one of the turrets at the west end in 1847, some bushels of minute fragments of stained glass were found, no doubt the remains of demolished windows.



walls were covered with poly-chromatic decorations,\* and the floor enriched with sepulchral brasses. A stone reredos, richly carved and decorated, stood at the back of the high altar,† which latter was laden with rich and massive church plate and jewelled reliquaries.‡ Other



\* From an early period it became the custom to adorn the walls of churches with paintings in distemper, and there is no doubt that at one time the interior of this church was so covered. When the organ was removed from the west end of the south aisle in 1869, portions of patterns in scroll work of very elegant design were discovered, from which the annexed engravings have been taken.

On the north wall of the north aisle of the chancel there is a small fresco, uncovered in 1848, representing several armed men entering a church, and other figures. See P.C., p. 119.

That there were numerous pictures in this church may be readily inferred, but we have no record of

them, and none survived the reformation. In 1857, a picture was presented by Lieut.-Col. Mason of Necton. It is a copy of the "Elevation of the Cross," from the original, by Rubens, in Antwerp cathedral. There is in St. Peter's church, used as an altar piece, a copy of Rubens' "Descent from the Cross," also presented by Col. Mason.

† An altar stone, marked with five crosses, was discovered some years since. In the wills of the 13th and 14th centuries may be found numerous bequests to the high altar.

‡ Sacrilege was in the middle ages considered one of the blackest crimes, yet it was occasionally perpetrated. In 1348 a chalice was stolen from St. Nicholas' church, but was recovered by the bailiffs in a broken state, and it was by them delivered, in the presence of three witnesses, to a silversmith to be repaired. Previously to the reformation, this church was particularly rich in plate (see F., p. 88; and P.C., p. 115); and possessed some relics which were much prized, especially some oil supposed to have been consecrated by St. Nicholas, the gift of Prior John Hoo, and a holy thorn set in silver. There still grows in the neighbourhood of Jerusalem a peculiar thorn, specimens of which are occasionally sent to this country, and preserved in the cabinets of the curious.

altars there were in the chancel aisles, and in the numerous side chapels belonging to the several guilds or to private persons of influence and importance.\* A richly-carved rood loft stretched across the west end of the "middle aisle" of the chancel, upon which a cross was displayed; and lights burned day and night before the images of saints, dispersed throughout the church.†

Benedictine monks in the costume of their order, and singing men in surplices had their appropriate seats, while the services of the church were performed by priests and chaplains, dressed in magnificent robes, varied in accordance with their degrees, the duties they had to perform, and the season of the year. *Black* (of which there were several velvet copes, some of them spangled with gold, and others with bells of gold) were seldom worn, except on Good Friday, Rogation Days, and on occasions of mourning. *Violet* was also a mournful colour. *Red* and *purple* were used on occasions of great solemnity; of these there were two copes of red satin of Bruges, and others of red velvet.‡ There were tunics also of red satin and velvet. *Green* and *blue* (the emblems of faith and hope) were used on particular festivals; one vestment of green was wrought with birds, another was of branched silk, and another of velvet: of blue velvet there were several copes. *White*, signifying purity, was worn on the festivals of confessors, virgins, and angels. The principal vestment, composed of cloth of gold, and eleven tunics, were the gift of Sir John Fastolfe, K.G.

In process of time the seeds of the reformation, sown by Wickliff, which had long been germinating, began to bear fruit; and early in the 15th century, the Bishop of Norwich was called upon to suppress the heresies which were spreading in his diocese.

In 1428 Margery, wife of William Backster, a wheelwright at Martham, was accused. The evidence against her was given by another woman, named Joan Cliffland, who deposed that being asked

\* For an account of the guilds and their chapels, see M. i., p. 243.

† Some of the stone steps, leading to the rood loft on the north side, still remain with the aperture for the door; but there is no vestige of a screen.

‡ Red is still worn by Roman catholic priests in England on the anniversary of an English saint's martyrdom.

by Margery what she did every day at church, she answered that she kneeled down and said five paternosters in worship of the crucifix, and as many Ave Marias in worship of Our Lady, upon which Margery denounced the worship of images as being of no avail. Having stated her belief that the sacrament of the altar, after consecration, was the very body of Christ, Margery denied it, giving cogent reasons, and affirmed that such doctrine had been "falsely and deceitfully ordained by the priests, to induce simple people to idolatry." She denied the necessity of fasting in Lent, or on other days appointed by the church, saying that people had better eat their fragments of meat on such days, than "go to market and bring themselves into debt to buy fish." Margery also asserted that it was useless "to go on pilgrimage, either to our Lady of Walsingham or to any other saint or place;" and offered that her husband should come secretly at night to Joan, and "read the law of Christ unto her." It seems that Margery had some suspicion of Joan, for she said to her—"it appeareth by your countenance that you intend to disclose what I have said to you," but Joan swore she would not. Then Margery said to her "if you do accuse me "unto the Bishop of Norwich, I will do unto you as I once did unto a "certain friar, a carmelite of Yarmouth, who was the best learned friar "in all the country." Margery had rebuked the friar for begging, saying that it was no alms to give him any thing, unless he would leave his habit and go to the plough, which would please God more than following the life of some friars; and at his request she "declared to the friar the gospel in English." Afterwards the friar accused her of heresy, and she made a counter accusation against him, "for which her husband would have killed him;" and so the friar, for fear, held his peace "and went his way for shame." Margery also told Joan that she would never confess to a priest, "because he had no power to absolve any man from his sins," but that "men ought to confess themselves only unto God."

It was also proved against her that, upon going to Margery's house on Saturday after Ash-Wednesday (horrible to relate) a brass pot was found standing over the fire, with a piece of bacon and oatmeal seething in it. The depositions in this case raised nearly all the

Nº 1



Nº 2



Nº 3





questions at issue, between the catholics of that time and those who protested against what they believed to be the errors of Rome. Ecclesiastical censures and severities were able for a time to suppress the "new doctrines," but could not extinguish them. They continued to spread until some of the priests themselves were converted to them.

In 1535, whilst Sir Cotton, a priest, was preaching a sermon in the parish church, William Swanton, a chaplain, openly denounced the practices of Rome, maintaining that no honor should be given to saints, or to the pictures or images of them within the church; that a christian man profited nothing by praying for their intercession; and ended by saying that holy water was "good sauce for a capon." He was supported by twenty-four persons, and a great tumult took place. Six years afterwards four merchants openly derided the elevation of the Host, speaking "heretical words;" and Thomas Hammond, a fish-merchant, bargained with one Thomas Alleyn for the sale of a last of white herrings, within the church during divine service. These disorders called for suppression, and the offenders were fined; and the corporation made an order that whoever thereafter disturbed or "disquieted" any preacher, "should be committed to ward, there to remain at the discretion of the bailiffs." Some account of the further progress of the reformation and of the subsequent ecclesiastical affairs of the parish, will be found in P. C., p. 147.\*

The church books inform us that, in 1465, there was in the church "our lady's organ," and in 1485 they speak both of the "old organs" and the "new organs," and in the following year the "great old organ," and in 1550, "Jesus organ." Manship says that, when he wrote in 1619, there was in the chancel on the north side, "a fair pair of organs,"†

\* A popish priest at Yarmouth having sent up to the privy council certain questions concerning the sacrament of the Eucharist, the same were referred to J. Boleyn and John Foxe, who answered them. Harl. M.S.S., No. 416.

† There has been considerable discussion as to the meaning of the old expression "a pair of organs;" but in Dr. Reinbault's opinion, the term meant simply an organ with more pipes than one. Some of our old poets were accustomed to use the word *pair* in the sense of an aggregate, and as synonymous with *set*.

Long before the close of the 14th century, all our abbeys and large churches were plentifully supplied with organs; and it was the practice to use two organs, one

and near thereto sat eight priests and "a competent number of singing men." Organs continued to be used in the reformed churches until the puritans got the upper hand.

By an ordinance of Parliament made in 1644, "no organs were to remain in churches, choral books were to be torn, painted glass windows broken, sepulchral brass inscriptions defaced, and cathedral service totally abolished;" notwithstanding which the people of Yarmouth contrived to preserve "a fine old organ" until 1650, when it was destroyed. At the time of the restoration not a single instrument is known to have been in existence throughout the kingdom; and nearly a century elapsed before an organ was replaced in this church, by which time the chancel and north aisle and north transept had been separated, and divine service was performed in the south aisle, the nave itself being occupied by a huge gallery.

The organ of St. Nicholas' church was built by Jordan, Byfield, and Bridge, at that time the best organ builders in England, who had agreed to unite their talents so as, without competition, to produce the best instruments that could be made. It was erected in 1733, and to celebrate the opening, a sermon (afterwards printed) was preached by the Rev. Dr. Macro, (from Eph. v. 19), in which he cautions the organist not to let "the harmony of its sounds be frisking, airy, or ludicrous, which tends to dissipate the thoughts and break the attention of the mind."

This organ was long considered as the best in England for the excellency of its tone. It has lately been enlarged by Hill and Son, of London, under the advice of Mr. Henry Smart, at an expense of £800; and, under a faculty obtained for the purpose, it has been removed from the west end of the south aisle to the north transept.

large and the other small. At first, when little more was required than to accompany the chant, the organist was one of the monks. Afterwards, when musical composition improved and more skill was required, lay organists were employed.

The organ in St. George's chapel, by the same builders, was erected in 1734. See M., p. 219. In 1817 a workman whilst repairing the roof fell through the ceiling upon the top of the chapel organ, doing the instrument considerable injury.

The following is a description of the organ as now constituted :\*—

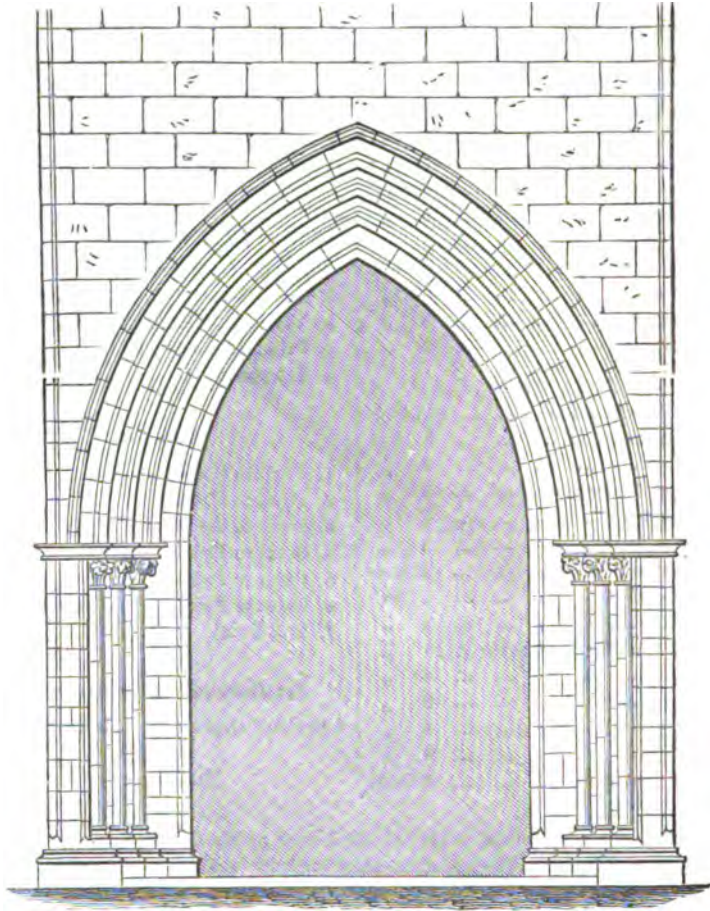
GREAT ORGAN.		CHOIR.	
1. Double Open Diapason (metal)	16 feet	1. Slider for Lieblich Bourdon	16 f.tone
2. Open Diapason ... ..	8 "	2. Open Diapason ... ..	8 "
3. Open Diapason ... ..	8 "	3. Dulciana ... ..	8 "
4. Stopped Diapason ... ..	8 "	4. Stopped Diapason ... ..	8 f.tone
5. Slider for Gamba ... ..	8 "	5. Principal ... ..	4 "
6. Principal ... ..	4 "	6. Flute ... ..	4 "
7. Principal (No 2) ... ..	4 "	7. Fifteenth ... ..	2 "
8. Twelfth ... ..	3 "	8. Mixture ... ..	2 ranks
9. Fifteenth ... ..	2 "	9. Clarionet ... ..	8 f.tone
10. Tierce ... ..	1½ "	10. Slider for Claribella	
11. Sesqui-altera ... ..	5 ranks		
12. Mixture ... ..			
13. Cornet ... ..			
14. Double Trumpet ... ..	16 feet	PEDAL ORGAN.	
15. Posaune ... ..	8 "	1. Double Open (wood) ... ..	32 feet
16. Trumpet ... ..	8 "	2. Open Wood ... ..	16 "
17. Clarion ... ..	4 "	3. Violoncello (England's) ..	16 "
		4. Principal ... ..	8 "
		5. Trombone ... ..	16 "
SWELL ORGAN.		COUPLERS.	
1. Lieblich Bourdon ... ..	16 f.tone	1. Swell to Great Sub. 8ve	
2. Open Diapason ... ..	8 feet	2. Swell to Choir	
3. Gamba ... ..	8 "	3. Swell to Great	
4. Stopped Diapason ... ..	8 "	4. Swell to Pedal	
5. Principal ... ..	4 "	5. Choir to Pedal	
6. Fifteenth ... ..	2 "	6. Great to Pedal	
7. Mixture ... ..	4 ranks	7. Full Pedal	
8. Suabe Flute ... ..	4 feet		
9. Piccolo ... ..	2 "		
10. Slider for Contra Fagotto ...	16 "		
11. Oboe ... ..	8 "		
12. Horn ... ..	8 "		
13. Trumpet ... ..	8 "		
14. Clarion ... ..	4 "		
15. Vox Humana ... ..	8 f.tone		
		SIX COMPOSITION PEDALS, VIZ.,	
		4 to Great Organ	2 to Swell Organ
		TREMULANT.	

\* This noble instrument is ably presided over by Mr. Henry Stonex, a pupil of Dr. Buck of Norwich. The appointment of organist was long in the hands of the corporation, and during the last century there have been organists, good, bad, and indifferent. The most distinguished were Heighington, Eager, and Warne.

Previously to the appointment of Mr. Warne, "the blind organist," there was one whose musical talents were appreciated solely by his father, a very aged man. On one occasion, when the son was playing his best, the father exclaimed, "a second



In the vestry there has been long preserved a very curious library table, having six shelves for books suspended between two discs, and so regulated by concealed wheels, that, in revolving, the shelves



Handel!" "Yes," said a stranger who sat next him, "quite a second-hand one." As the organist was utterly regardless of the vocal accompaniment, the playing and singing were seldom in accord.

remain horizontal, thus allowing the reader to consult a large number of open books spread out upon them.\*

Upon removing the plaster from the west side of the south transept in 1869, a noble early English doorway, of remarkable delicacy of detail, was uncovered, of which no living person had any remembrance. It is represented on the opposite page, and may have been the "marriage door," mentioned by Manship.

It was anciently the custom for a couple about to be married to appear at a particular door, where the priest joined their hands and performed the greatest part of the ceremony. They then entered the church and proceeded to the altar, there to receive the nuptial benediction and to hear mass.

Chaucer, in his *Wife of Bath*, says—

"She was a worthy woman all her life,

"Husbands at the Church dore had she five."

The origin of this custom may be traced to the desire, which prevailed from the earliest times, to make the ceremony as public as possible. Many years elapsed, after the disruption of Roman Catholicism in this country, before the nuptial ceremony was wholly performed within the church. Selden affirms that dower could only be lawfully assigned at the church door; and Littleton says that the bridegroom "when he cometh to the church door to be married there, after affiance and troth plighted, endeweth the woman of his whole land, or of the half, or other lesser part thereof, and there openly doth declare the quantity and the certainty of the land she shall have for her dower."

The unusual position of this door, which has every appearance of having been an external one, was probably occasioned by the south transept being connected with the priory by a cloister, so that the priests and monks could alone enter by the south door.

The tower and spire of St. Nicholas' church were always conspicuous as a land and sea mark; and in 1798, when an invasion was apprehended, the churchwardens were provided with a red flag, which if hoisted was to be repeated from every church tower in the county, to communicate an attempted landing as rapidly as possible.

\* See illustration on p. 40. A copy of this desk, made by Mr. Norman, of the Market place, is now in the library of the Middle Temple.

The spire was 186 feet high. It was struck by lightning in 1683, and the woodwork having ignited, the fire was extinguished by John Grice, for which service he was presented by the corporation with a silver tankard, having a view of the church engraved upon it; and the same man, in 1695, was paid £4 for taking down and putting up the weathercock. When this spire was removed, the flat top of the tower was used as a telegraph station.\*

There appears to have been a bell foundry in Yarmouth, for a bell in Martham church bears the name of "Thomas Doo, bell founder of Yarmouth, 1674."†

The sessions rolls afford evidence that at an early period the church was fled to by malefactors as a place of sanctuary. If such an offender could reach the churchyard, without being apprehended, and there confess his crimes before the coroner or bailiffs, he was allowed to abjure the realm; a limited time being fixed within which he was to leave the kingdom at some appointed outport. Thus, in 1295, Richard Clerk of Norwich placed himself in the church of St. Nicholas, and acknowledged to have killed John Russell, and to have broken out of prison. He was allowed to take ship at Southampton within a month. In like manner, Simon Blaking confessed to several robberies and to have broken out of prison, and afterwards killed a Martham man. Port was given him to transport himself within fifteen days.

It was formerly considered necessary when one man undertook to pay another a sum of money, to specify the place where such payment was to be made; and, down to a late period (in bonds given as a primary or collateral security), it was customary to name the south porch of St. Nicholas' church for this purpose. This was not altogether imaginary, for in ancient times such payments actually took place in churches, until, by a proclamation of Queen Elizabeth, they were prohibited. Nevertheless the porch continued to be named as a place

\* In 1732 "a man," says Ives, sen., "slid from the church steeple upon a rope."

† *Ex. inf.* Rev. J. J. Raven, who in 1869, published *The Church Bells of Cambridgeshire*, and has extended his researches in campanalogy into other counties, the result of which it is to be hoped he will give to the world.

for the payment of money ; for Mr. Warnes, by his will, made in 1694, directs an annuity, which he gave to Anne Markant, the sister of his widow, to be paid "yearly on the 1st of May, in the south porch of the church of Great Yarmouth."

The congregation has always been a very large one. Never probably were they more disturbed than on St. Andrew's day, 1544, when, during divine service, it being Sunday, news arrived that two French ships had pounced upon two crayers, then riding in Yarmouth roads laden with wheat for the King's service at Boulogne, and were making off with them. The townsmen "presently betook themselves to armour," and having manned a ship, pursued and overtook the enemy, "and after notable skirmishing rescued the prizes, and brought six French-men found in them prisoners to Yarmouth, where their purses paid "passage before their departure."

During the seven hundred years this church has been in existence, how many eloquent sermons have been delivered in it ! No preacher, probably, ever excited more commotion than did Dr. Camil, rector of Bradwell, in 1724. His sermon gave great offence to "a certain person of great power in the town," who summoned some of his brethren to meet him, and then sent for the clergy, and "made a violent speech," ending by telling one of them to inform the doctor that he "should never come into the pulpit again." Upon this Camil published his sermon to prove that it only contained "some warm expressions against the crying vices of the age," and insinuated that "the cap fitted." "For my part," says the preacher, "I am resolved to cry out and spare "not ; and the scandalous and opprobrious usage which the ministers "of Christ sometimes meet with, shall not frighten me from discharging "my duty ; and neither the frowns of the great, nor the threats of the "wicked shall hinder me from telling the house of Jacob their iniquity, "and the house of Israel their sin."\*

\* There is an engraved portrait of him. His great grandfather came from Scotland and settled at Gisleham in Suffolk, in 1583. The original name was Campbell ; and he bore gyronny of eight *or* and *sa*, a crescent *ar*. He died in 1732.

Fancy the mayor offended at a sermon, calling the council together, and reprimanding the clergy, for too much freedom of speech in the pulpit !

Dean Davies, when in Yarmouth, took the following method of rebuking the congregation for their impatience of long sermons. When the preacher had, one Sunday, finished his morning discourse, the Dean rose in the reading desk and commenced the afternoon service. "The grinning congregation," says Doran, "who found themselves subjected to this discipline would have been a study for Hogarth."\*

The floor of this church was filled with the graves of those who in their day were the most considerable burgesses. Unhappily the numerous brasses which recorded their names and deeds were, in 1551, ruthlessly torn from their stones and sent to London, there to be cast into weights for the town's use.† Some few incised slabs alone remain. So utterly were all funereal monuments in this church defaced, that when Weever visited Yarmouth he could find no inscription or epitaph save this one—

"*Ellyn Benaker, merrcy doth craue;*

"*God on her soul. merrcy mote have.*"

Since that period the chancel, transepts, and north aisle have been almost re-paved with sepulchral slabs, bearing inscriptions to the memory of many whose names will be recorded in these pages. Of those buried in this church and the adjoining churchyard, who were

\* *Saints and Sinners.* How startled would have been the congregation, in former times, to have seen a black man rise in the pulpit and deliver a sermon! This was Bishop Crowther; his ample lawn sleeves contrasting strongly with his face and hands.

† It might have been asked, with Dr. Corbet, the witty Bishop of Norwich,—

"*Tell me, ye anti-saints, why brass,*

"*With you is shorter-lived than glass?*

"*And why the saints have scap'd their falls,*

"*Better from windows than from walls?"*

for it is said that some of the stained glass, with which the windows of this church were once so rich, remained until the end of the last century, when every particle was carefully removed.

A better taste now prevails; the first of a proposed series of memorial windows in the south aisle, is one in remembrance of the late Charles Cory, Esq., town clerk, erected by public subscription. It was designed by Mr. Seddon, the figures by Mr. Rossiter, and the glass executed by Messrs. Saunders.

neither natives nor residents, or who cannot be connected with any particular locality, mention will be made in a separate chapter.\*

We are told by Manship, that a carny or charnel house, built in the churchyard, was "fully finished" in 1308 by Sybilla, the widow of William Flath, "a woman of singular virtue and dignity;" for the purpose of containing the bones of the dead formerly there buried and again cast up by the making of new graves; and to enable her to do so she obtained a licence from the bishop of Norwich and a bull from Pope Clement V., subsequently confirmed by Richard II. Over it she built a mortuary chapel, "wherein divine service was by two priests, for that purpose by her appointed, solemnly performed." She died in 1311, having first endowed the carny with an ample revenue arising from the rents of houses, vested in the corporation, who appointed two of their number to be "collectors of charnel rents."†

This chantry was dissolved at the reformation, the building fell into ruin, and in 1588 was levelled with the ground; the stones being employed in constructing the lower wall of the mount, to guard the town against the Spanish Armada; there says Manship, "to defend the bodies of the living, as they had previously done the bones of the dead." The latter were removed and buried under the east wall; and ultimately the lower part of King Henry's tower, at the N.E. corner of the churchyard, was appropriated for that purpose, and is now filled to a considerable height, so that entering the tower from the churchyard, the living may stand upon the bones of many generations. In the

\* The most ancient monuments were conceived in a spirit of great piety and simplicity. Those of more modern date frequently exhibit a false taste, and bear—

"——— the marks of earthly state,

"And vain distinction."

Others display—

"The pride of heraldry and pomp of power";

nevertheless their mutilation or removal is unjustifiable and contrary to law. We all know that—

"Sepulchral columns wrestle but in vain

"With all subduing time; whose cank'ring hand

"With calm deliberate malice, wasteth them."

But this inevitable result ought not be hastened by the hand of man.

† F. vi., M. p. 39, and P. C. p. 115.

Cottonian view of the town this carny is depicted, standing in the S.W. part of the churchyard, of an oblong shape, having a turret or pinnacle at each corner ; but there was nothing to mark the spot, until, in lowering the path leading from the church gate to the west door in the present year, a portion of the foundation, of a most substantial character, was laid bare.

Since the publication of the Continuation to Manship's *History*, considerable progress has been made in restoring St. Nicholas' church, under the advice of Mr. J. P. Seddon.

The central tower has been reinstated, the Norman work being carefully preserved ; and the four corner pinnacles have been replaced.

The chancel proper has been carried out to its original extent ; and after the lapse of two centuries the church has been thrown open from end to end. A new oaken ceiling in panels, divided by ribs, has been placed on the middle aisle of the chancel.

The south aisle (except the lower portion of the west gable internally) has been entirely rebuilt from the original foundations. The noble triplet at the west end, formerly hidden by the organ, has been restored. The seven south windows, originally early English (subsequently filled with perpendicular tracery), have been rebuilt in the early geometrical style, alternately varying in detail. Between each pair of these windows, a buttress finished with a gabled canopy rises to the level of the parapet. A new roof of Memel timber has been placed on this aisle, of better construction than the old one, which had become decayed, and had thrust out the south wall. The ceiling, which is of oak, is of an elegant arched form (instead of the former awkward waggon shape) ; and is divided into panels by moulded ribs, and the original bosses with their shields of arms and curious emblems have been replaced.\* These ribs and the wooden cornice, above that of stone, have been quietly but richly decorated with colour, producing a fine and pleasing effect, whilst the oaken ceiling is left untouched.

\* These bosses display an exceedingly interesting series of armorial bearings, commencing with the shield of Edward III., and followed by those of his sons, the Black Prince, and the Dukes of Lancaster, York, and Gloucester, and by those of many Norfolk Knights distinguished in the wars of the 14th century. They are preceded by the well-known banner of the Holy Trinity, followed



Boss, in St. Nicholas' Church, Gt. Yarmouth.

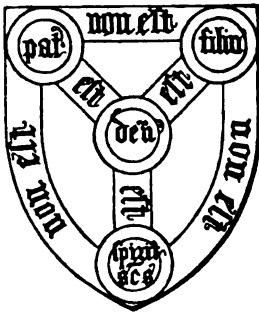




The pinnacle at the S. W. corner has been rebuilt from the foundation, to allow of which a huge modern buttress of red brick covered with cement had to be removed.

The works remaining to be done are:—To rebuild or thoroughly repair the west gables of the nave and north aisle, and rebuild the three dilapidated pinnacles; to replace the present ceiling in the north aisle by a loftier one, corresponding with that in the south aisle; to bring the great south porch into harmony with the new work; to rebuild the south transept, replacing the present perpendicular south window with one of early English, and to substitute for the present debased windows in the south aisle of the chancel, others corresponding with those of the south aisle; to restore the two east windows of the chancel aisles, and to put in these aisles new carved ceilings of panelled oak; to fill all the windows with stained glass, of patterns and colours harmonizing one with the other; and to crown the whole by placing a loftier spire upon the present tower.

by the double-headed eagle displayed as symbolical of the church. Other bosses contain representations of the beatitudes, the heavenly choir, the deadly sins, &c.



The annexed lithograph of one of these bosses, from a drawing by Mrs. Bowyer Vaux, represents Wisdom calmly contemplative, although surrounded by evil.

See a further account in P. C., p. 140, where there are plates of twenty-four of these bosses.



On removing the lead from the former roof, the outlines of numerous feet were found traced upon it, with dates extending back to the last century. This was a practice not confined to "rude and ignorant people," for Sir Simonds D'Ewes, of Stowlangtoft, Suffolk, informs us in his journal, that when on his wedding tour, in 1627, and being at the top of King's College Chapel, Oxford, his wife's foot, which was "one of the least in England, her age and stature considered," was "sett," and her arms "exculp'd within the compasse of the foote in a small escocheon;" and Stowe, in his *Chronicle*, states that the King of Denmark, when, in 1606, he ascended Westminster abbey, "held his foote still whilst the keeper of the staple with his knife cut the length and breadth thereof in lead." See *East Anglian*, vol. iv. 192.

## CHAPTER III.

## The Priory.

*See here the changes time has made  
In long revolving years ;  
Monks, priests, and guests, are in the grave,  
With all their hopes and fears.*

**A**DJACENT to the church and immediately opposite the south transept and the south aisle of the chancel, and communicating therewith by a green yard and cloister, was the priory, where the chaplains, the priests, the singing men, and all who served in the church, resided.\*

The establishment consisted of a prior† and eight Benedictine monks, sent from the convent of the Holy Trinity at Norwich, who were frequently changed.‡ Of seculars, there were three chaplains, a deacon, and two or three clerks.

The original building was coeval with the church ; but at first there were three monks and one chaplain only.

During the middle ages numerous gifts were made to this priory, and personal legacies to the inmates. Wills at that time were usually drawn by ecclesiastics, who had ample opportunities for directing the benevolence of testators. Thus, William Motte gave to John

\* For an account of this priory see the appendix to Manship, p. 402.

† To be prior of Yarmouth was a stepping stone to advancement. In 1466, William Bokenham, the then prior, was elected abbot of Wymondham.

Thomas Hoo was prior in 1502. He was of the same family as Sir John de Hoo, prior temp. Edward III, who bore *arg.* a bend between six cross crosslets *sa.*

‡ We are indebted to the Benedictines for our fine cathedral service, which has outlived the vicissitudes of so many generations. Guido Aretinus, a Benedictine monk, who lived about the year 1020, is the reputed inventor of the scale called the gamut.

Elyngham, chaplain, 10s., "so that he might aid and advise the executors rightly and faithfully to administer his will, to the honor of God and the salvation of the testator's soul;" and William Reysee bequeathed to Sir Alexander, the head chaplain, 1s., to his two partners and the deacon, 6d. each, and to the three clerks, 3d. each.

Here the Dean of Yarmouth held his court christian, for granting probates and letters of administration, and for hearing causes "matrimonial"; for doing which he was sometimes accused of extorting heavier fees than were of right his due; and the bailiffs were not slow to enforce the 31 Ed. I., passed expressly to prevent such practices.\*



The Dean was also constantly endeavouring to draw into his court causes which did not properly belong to it, to the great ire of the bailiffs. In 1376, Sir William, dean of Yarmouth, and parson of Billockby, was fined for summoning persons to the consistory court improperly, and punishing people twice for the same canonical offences, and taking more for absolving them than was allowed.†

This priory was enlarged in 1260, and somewhat later the great hall was built which remains to this day. At the east end were the apartments of the prior (with chambers above), looking into an extensive garden, which reached to the town wall. The doorway leading to the lower apartments still remains. On the north side was the green yard, into which there was a doorway from the great hall.‡ The public entrance to the hall

\* The bailiffs required all wills to be produced to them, and if such wills related to real estate they had to be enrolled. Wills continued to be proved in Ecclesiastical Courts down to 1856, when a Court of Probate was established.

† The deanery of Yarmouth was, in 1345, united with that of Flegg, and is now within the deanery of Norwich.

‡ What remained of the cloisters surrounding the green yard was pulled down in 1811, and the site added to the church yard.

was on the south side, opposite the door leading into the cloisters. The apartments for the chaplains, deans, clerks, and monks, were arranged round a large court on the south side of the hall, into which court there was an entrance from Priory plain, under an arch with a gate house above.

At the upper end of the hall on the south side, an arched doorway which still remains, led to the minstrels' gallery, the open windows of which looked down upon the dais; and at the lower or west end, a stone screen, composed of a series of arches (in the spandrels of which were the arms of East Anglia, France (ancient), England, and Castile and Leon), divided the hall from the buttery and domestic offices.

Hospitality, which formed an essential part of the monastic system, was here freely exercised; and distinguished visitors to the town were usually "lodged at the priory."

Here, in 1382, Richard II. was received when he paid the visit already mentioned. His object was to view the fortifications; for Great Yarmouth being one of the principal "frontier towns and strongholds on the sea coast," was accounted at that time "a place of great importance to the King and to the whole realm."\*

Mary Tudor, the beautiful daughter of Henry VII., who had first married Louis XII. of France, but was then the wife of the Duke of Suffolk was, with her husband, lodged at the priory for three days, † in 1514.



\* He issued a commission under the great seal appointing Lord de Morley and divers knights and gentlemen with the bailiffs to take charge of the fortifications for the defence of the same, promising to supply them "with armor, munition, and other means as occasion should require." F. p. 18.

The Lords de Morley had long been in the service of the crown. Sir Robert de Morley was at the siege of Calais; and Lord de Morley his son (who married a daughter of Lord Bardolf), was killed by a prodigious storm of hail when serving with the English army near Chartres in 1360.

His shield of arms *arg.* a lion ramp. *sa.* crowned *or.* is still on the ceiling of the south aisle of the parish church. See P.C. p. 122.

† Charles Brandon, remarkable for the dignity and gracefulness of his person, had been brought up with and as a companion to the Prince, afterwards Henry VIII.; and had been a few months previously to his visit to Yarmouth, created Duke of Suffolk, a title forfeited by Edward de la Pole, beheaded in the previous year.

At the reformation the priory followed the fortunes of the convent at Norwich, and passed to the newly-constituted dean and chapter, but it still continued to be the place where strangers of distinction could be lodged, at the invitation of the corporation and charge of the town. Thus, in 1546, the Duke of Norfolk, Lord Burgh, Sir Robert Southwell, Sir Roger Townshend, Sir Edward Windham, Knts., and Robert Holding, John Garnell, Thomas Gawdy, and John Corbett, Esqs., royal commissioners sent down to determine the dispute between the town and the Paston family "touching boundaries" were, on their arrival, lodged at the priory, where they remained for two days, "at the town's charge," taking evidence.\*

In 1551, the dean and chapter of Norwich granted all the temporalities of the church at Yarmouth to one Sowell, a layman, for a term of 80 years, at a fixed yearly rent, he providing for all the religious services of the church, including the appointment and maintenance of ministers; an arrangement scarcely credible at the present time, and one which then led to much dissatisfaction and many disputes; the corporation, who coveted the patronage, being thenceforth constantly at variance with the lessee.†

Still, however, the great hall was used by the corporation on state occasions, and for many years they held their guild dinner in it on Michaelmas day, it being much more convenient for this purpose than their own hall.

When, in 1578, Queen Elizabeth, being at Norwich, proposed to visit Yarmouth, great preparations were made for her reception,‡ and the priory was fitted up for the purpose. On the journey from

\* The channel called Grubb's haven, having been by this time completely filled with sand, the boundary between Yarmouth and Caister became undefined, and this led to great disputes. Some of the depositions taken on the above occasion are printed *in extenso* by Swinden, and are extremely curious.

† See P. C., p. 150.

‡ In anticipation of the Queen's arrival, each bailiff was to have three officers attendant upon him, besides the three usually allowed, and new liveries were ordered for the occasion. Each alderman was to provide "able men to shoot in cullyvers," and every one of them was to have "a jerkin of black buckrum lined with white;" and those who could afford it, "silk or black kersey."

Norwich, her Majesty was to have rested for a night at Ludham, then a manor house belonging to the bishop. Unfortunately the plague broke out at Norwich, and it was deemed necessary that the Queen should leave the city with all haste; and being thus prevented paying her visit to Yarmouth, she sent the Earl of Leicester, Lord Burleigh, and many other noblemen and gentlemen of her suite to express her regret; and they were "moste worthely entertained" and "royally feasted" at the priory, at the town's charge.\*

Long after the reformation the clergy continued to reside at the priory. Here, in 1599, William Younger, of Emmanuel college, Cambridge, wrote a sermon which he preached in the parish church, "the argument whereof was to administer instruction unto the people, upon occasion of the troubles which then were feared by the Spaniards." It was published at London in 1600, and was dedicated to the bailiffs, John Felton and Thomas Mansfield.

In this hall it was the custom, from a very early period, for the prior to provide a public breakfast for the parishioners on Christmas day. It originated in the desire so to keep the feast as to promote "love and good will" among all classes, and to exercise the gift of charity by providing bread and meat for the necessitous poor; and whilst the priests remained dominant these ends were obtained with reverence and decorum. But after the reformation, when the prior and monks were turned out of the building, all respect for the day

\* The bailiffs knew well the advantage of having a friend at court; and immediately on the disgrace and execution of the Duke of Norfolk in 1572, they elected the favorite, Leicester, to be their high steward (see P. C., p. 322). Whilst on a journey to Cornbury park, he died of a fever in 1588; an opinion prevailing that the fatal result was caused by a cordial administered to him by Lady Essex, which alike finished his journey, his plot against the countess, and his life. See *Leicester's Ghost*.

He was succeeded in the high stewardship by Lord Burleigh, who had accompanied Leicester to Yarmouth. It is to be hoped that the feasting on this occasion did not increase the gout to which the Lord High Treasurer was subject. The sufferings of so great a man called forth numerous prescriptions. Lord Shrewsbury recommended "oil of stag's blood"; others "medicated slippers"; but Dr. Bale, more to the purpose, insisted upon "a regimen of diet." See *Lansdowne M.S.S.* It ultimately killed him at the good old age of 77; the Queen visiting her faithful minister on his death bed, and "comforting him with most kind words." P. C., p. 323.

seems to have been cast aside, whilst the people insisted upon having their "breakfast" as a legal right. The farmer of the newly-constituted dean and chapter in vain represented to the lords of the privy council (to whom matters of this kind were then referred on petition to the King), "the danger of gathering together at least one thousand people, most of them of the rudest and basest sort, whose meeting was often attended with danger of murder, by quarrelling and fighting among themselves, breaking of windows, tables, stools, pots and glasses, and many other disorders which could not be prevented; besides the profanation of the day, Holy Communion having to be put by, and the greater part of the people remaining, drinking and swagging till eleven o'clock, going neither to service or sermon." These reasons were considered sufficient to suppress the custom, but not to relieve the farmer's pocket, who was ordered to pay £10 a year "to the profit and benefit of the fishermen of the town."

During the succeeding century the buildings fell into decay, for neither the dean and chapter nor their lessee would do any repairs; and in process of time they were converted into cottages, inhabited by the lowest classes. In 1778 the dean and chapter granted a lease of the priory to John Morris, merchant, for forty years, at a rent of £10 and two fat capons. In this lease the principal building is described as "a fair large hall, with three rooms at the west end thereof, previously used as a kitchen and buttery,"\* with a parlour and two other "ground rooms" at the east end, with three chambers over them; and to the south, two low rooms and "a fair gallery" over them, and a large garden lying east as far as the town wall, containing about an acre of ground, and three other plots of ground adjoining the hall and rooms, with a court yard and stable, and a number of rooms surrounding the court yard, and to the north of the great hall, a green yard, the buildings surrounding which had been made into numerous habitations. In

\* There is an etching of the west end of this hall by Cotman; when it was still used as a stable. It represents the arched screen already mentioned. One of these arches had then been cut away, in order to hang up the tandem harness of the occupier of the stable, Mr. William Taylor, surgeon.

Drawings of several parts of this hall before its restoration, were made by Winter, as also of the gatehouse already mentioned.



1779 the executors of the will of Morris assigned the property to the Rev. John Whitesides, Unitarian minister, who sold it to Mr. Thomas Clowes, who assigned the lease to William Fisher, Esq. Subsequently Mr. Samuel Sherrington became the lessee. By this time the great hall had been filled with rubbish, and converted into stables, the windows being used for doors; the whole of the old buildings being then in a most dilapidated state, whilst a warehouse and stables had been erected in the court yard. In 1846 the Rev. Henry Mackenzie, the then incumbent (now suffragan bishop of Nottingham), aided by some gentlemen of the town prevailed upon the dean and chapter to make a grant of the old buildings for the purposes of a National school; and the right of the then lessee having been purchased, the great hall was restored as nearly as possible to its original state, and now forms an admirable boys' school. Relics of antiquity have from time to time been found within the precincts of the priory. Among these was a "small ancient circular fibula, with an inscription round the rim;" and "a small oval brass seal, with a dove and olive branch, with the circumscription *Sum sine dolo*;" as Boulter describes them in his Catalogue of Antiquities.

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## The Guildhall.

By King John's charter\* the burgesses had granted to them a merchants' guild, the members of which became the governing body of the town, none of the inhabitants having any voice in public affairs who were not "free" of this guild; and for the transaction of business they erected a Guild-house at the church gate, immediately opposite the great south porch. The original structure was built upon arches, allowing a free passage under it to the churchyard.†

\* The burgesses paid 100 marks and a last of herrings for this charter. Madox *Exch.* p. 202.

† In lowering the pathway leading to the church in 1870, a portion of the foundations of the old guild hall, of very solid work, was laid bare. Some fragments of sculptured stone were also discovered, one being a quatrefoil panel, having in the centre a crown of thorns, an engraving of which is here given.

At first the freemen annually elected four of their number to govern the town, one for each of the four leets or wards, and called them bailiffs, which title, in its original meaning, was equivalent to lessee; they in fact holding the borough under the crown at a perpetual fee-farm yearly rent of fifty-five pounds. Subsequently to assist the bailiffs, twenty-four of the principal burgesses were selected, who were called jurats, from having been sworn faithfully to perform their duties; and they were empowered annually to elect four bailiffs, two chamberlains (equivalent to treasurers and accountants,) two churchwardens, two muragers (to whom the care of the town wall was entrusted), eight warders or tellers of herrings, two collectors of the half dole of herrings (which constituted part of the town revenue), and four auditors; an arrangement confirmed by subsequent charters.\*

This form of government continued until 1428, when the four bailiffs were reduced to two; the first named being called the prime bailiff, and with him the chief authority rested; and they with the jurats and the whole of the freemen (denominated the commonalty), constituted the governing body; but as any inhabitant could become free by serving an apprenticeship of seven years to another burgess, and when once admitted and enrolled transmitted the franchise to his descendants in perpetuity, their number rapidly increased and became too large to exercise the functions of a deliberative assembly.† It would be much the same now if all skilled artizans or the descendants of those who had been such, were *de facto* members of the town council. The inconvenience on

\* See an explanation of the charters in P. C., p. 1, and see the charters *in extenso* printed by Swinden.

† The customs as to freemen differed in various boroughs. In Durham, all sons of tailors, drapers, and mercers (freemen), could claim their freedom by right of birth, but only the eldest sons of all others traders. In Oxford, the son of a freeman was entitled to his freedom if born within the ancient limits of the city, but not if born elsewhere, unless the father before the son's birth "put a bond in the chest" for the payment of city taxes. The corporation of Yarmouth claimed and exercised the right of admitting any one to the freedom of the borough without serving an apprenticeship, and this they occasionally did on payment of an agreed sum of money. They also exercised an arbitrary power of disfranchisement. Thus, in 1551, a freeman was "discommoned" for his "ill demeanour," and another in 1588 for "incontinence with his maid."

account of the number became so great, that in 1485 an ordinance was drawn up, sanctioned by Sir James Hobart, the attorney general, under which forty-eight burgesses were selected to represent the commonalty, and these with the twenty-four already mentioned, constituted the select governing body, usually called the corporation; and as they were enabled to fill up vacancies as they occurred, the power of the freemen at large, or commonalty, was virtually at an end; especially as the select body exercised the exclusive right of electing members of Parliament, usually from among themselves.

The "twenty-fours" were afterwards reduced to eighteen, and called aldermen, and the "forty-eights" to thirty-six, and called common-council men; thus confining the privileges of freemen to a still smaller number. In 1654 the freemen at large claimed the right to vote at elections for members of Parliament, but were overruled by a decision of Speaker Lenthall. At the restoration, however, they again asserted their right, and with better success, for a committee of the House decided that the franchise was in the freemen. James II., in 1686, endeavoured by charter to confine this privilege to the corporation only, which he would have packed with his adherents; but finally the freemen triumphed, and whether resident or not retained their right of voting, till the Reform Act cut off the out voters, and at last the whole body were disfranchised in 1848, since which time the being a freeman confers no privilege.\*

\* By an ancient ordinance none could be elected to represent the borough in Parliament, but freemen, and hence it became the practice, after that rule was set aside, to present the freedom to those who were elected, and who did not previously possess the franchise; and it was also customary to present the freedom occasionally as an honorary distinction, as was indeed usual in all corporate cities and towns.

Walpole, Pitt, and other statesmen had the freedom of Yarmouth presented to them; as had also other distinguished persons.

When Sir Stephen Lushington, who presided for so many years in the High Court of Admiralty, was made a freeman, after his election in 1808, he acknowledged the compliment in the following letter:—

Temple, March 26, 1808.

My dear Sir,

Permit me to express what I really feel, my sincere gratitude for this

Merchant guilds, introduced by the Normans, enabled their members to hold lands and make trade regulations; and although intended to foster commerce, they had the effect of creating a monopoly by excluding non-freemen from the privileges of trade, which the freemen enjoyed, and this distinction existed in Yarmouth down to the present century; as for example, a freeman paid less dues on the importation of coals than a non-freeman, and to this day existing freemen are compensated by the town council for the suspension of this privilege. The freemen, however, sometimes bore exclusive burthens, for in ancient times when *Tallages* were arbitrarily raised, they were either assessed upon the guild as a body, or upon the members *per capita*. In 1298 the Yarmouth "free-men" were "for their good and laudable services" relieved of tallages.

The Merchants' guild originally partook of a religious character, and was called *The Great Guild of the Holy Trinity*; and in their hall the members were accustomed to pay their *gheld* or contributions to the common stock, and to hold their feasts.\* At the reformation this guild was suppressed as a religious body (as were all the guilds in the town†), and the hall with other property of the guild remained with the corporation as a purely secular body.

additional mark of favor, which has recently been conferred upon me, by presenting me with the freedom of the borough.

It is peculiarly satisfactory to me because I cannot but be sensible that many of my best friends differ with me in some political opinions, and this I must consider as a proof, that though they may think me mistaken, they do believe that I act honestly, and to the best of my judgement.

Believe me, Dear Sir,

Your very faithful Servant,

S. LUSHINGTON.

To

E. K. Lacon, Esq.,  
Mayor of Yarmouth.

Dr. Lushington, although his family had considerable possessions in the West Indies, spoke and voted in favor of the abolition of the slave trade. His mother was a daughter of John Boldero, Esq., of an old family in Suffolk.

\* Hence the vulgar expression "down with your gilt," when requiring a person to pay money.

† There were many other guilds, but they all seem to have been formed for social, religious, or charitable purposes only, and to have had nothing to do with trade or politics. They were possessed of houses, money, plate, jewels, relics, robes,

It had been "a very fair building" says Manship, but being then much "ruinated," it was by the corporation, in 1544, "very substantially repaired and amended, the walls new buttressed and supported," and the roof was "brought from the college at Mettingham," near Bungay, then lately suppressed, "and covered with lead very neatly."\* This hall was 76 feet in length by 22 feet in breadth, the interior being hung with "cloth of arras, tapestry, and other costly furniture."† Although suppressed as a religious body, the eating and drinking part of the institution was continued.

On the vigil or eve of the Feast of the Holy Trinity, the brotherhood assembled, bringing their wives with them, and, after prayer, were regaled with spice cake, good beer, and ale. On Trinity Sunday there was a dinner, which consisted, for the first course, of fromerty,‡ roast beef, veal, and green geese; and for the second course, lamb, pigs, capons, and custard. The company were divided into parties of six,

and other effects; and most, if not all of them, had chapels in St. Nicholas' church. Each kept a guild book, and their accounts were audited yearly. The members walked in procession on public occasions, and were distinguished by their dresses and ornaments. In 1545, after an enquiry made by commissioners, they were all dissolved, and their property confiscated to public purposes. See P. C. i., p. 243.

\* This was not a college in the present acceptation of the term, but a residence built and endowed for thirteen chaplains or fellows, presided over by a master. At the foundation, however, provision was made, according to the *Liber Valorum*, for fourteen boys "who served God," and were educated and supported.

That the inmates of this establishment were not all drones is proved by the fact, that the master being "a man in those days in water works holden very expert," was, in 1545 (soon after the suppression of the college), consulted by the corporation as to the construction of the fifth haven. A complete insight into the domestic economy of Mettingham college, is obtained from the existence of six folio volumes of M. S. accounts of receipts and expenditure from the reign of Henry IV. to the dissolution, now in the possession of the Rev. C. R. Manning, of Diss.

In the *Comptus* for 1404, is an entry of the expenses of John Wilbey, the master, on riding to Yarmouth to speak with Sir Miles Stapleton, knt. Free stone for the buildings was imported at Yarmouth, and conveyed by water to Beccles, and thence by land carriage to Mettingham. Thomas Barsham, of Yarmouth, a celebrated decorator, was employed to paint images, and a "tabula" for the high altar.

† At a time when carpets were unknown, floors were strewn with rushes. These were renewed when strangers of distinction were expected, but ordinary guests were considered "not worth a rush."

‡ A dish made of wheat (*frumentum*) boiled in milk with rich spices.

and it was ordered that each mess should have two green geese and one capon. On Sunday evening the mess consisted of good broth, boiled beef, roast mutton, capon, lamb, and tart; and on Monday a similar dinner was provided. These entertainments were continued until 1569, when by reason of the excessive charge, and the disorders with which they were attended (the original religious element being entirely excluded), they were finally discontinued.

In their guildhall the corporation were wont to entertain persons of distinction visiting Yarmouth. In 1332 they received the Lord Chancellor, the King's justices, and the stewards of the royal household\* when they came down to Yarmouth, at the King's command, to endeavour to settle the disputes between the town and the Earl of Richmond, as Lord of Gorleston. Here, in 1488, the bailiffs feasted Sir John Paston on porpoise, a fish then esteemed a great delicacy.†

The royal commissioners, Sir William Paston, John Goodfall, John Heydon, and Nicholas Mynn, appointed "to view all manner of chantries and chapels, charnels and hospitals," sat here in 1535, and administered "interrogatories" to the bailiffs and others. It is impossible to enumerate all the great people who from time to time have been feasted in this guildhall, for, as the old chroniclers inform us, no person of any distinction in former times ever came to Yarmouth without being publicly entertained. Some, however, may be mentioned. Sir Robert Southwell and Sir Robert Jermyn in 1580; Lord Howard of Effingham in 1587; Sir Thomas Leighton and other knights and captains sent down by Queen Elizabeth to inspect the fortifications, and report as to the defence of the town against the Spanish Armada, in 1588. Sir William Paston, with many knights and gentlemen, were entertained here in 1608; as was the Lord Chief Justice Coke in the following year; and Sir Henry Vane, ambassador to Sweden, when he came in 1631, to take ship; and the Earl of Dorset, K.G., in 1633, when he came to be sworn in as Lord High Steward. In 1642, the

\* By an entry on the roll for that year, we find that their entertainment cost £1 2s. 6d.; and at the same time the sum of 13s. 4d. was paid for bread sent to them.

† The corporation by virtue of their charters were entitled to all fishes royal. In 1491 they sent a present of a porpoise to the Earl of Oxford.

Earl of Warwick was entertained ; in 1648, Lord Fairfax, Lord General of the Parliamentary forces ; and lastly, the corporation never omitted to feast themselves, whenever there was an excuse for doing so.\*

In this old guildhall the corporation held their deliberations, and in the plenitude of their power made sumptuary laws of their own (supplementing those of the legislature) which they were never slow to enforce. In 1532, John Shortbread and John Shuckforth were proceeded against for adorning their bodies "with an apparel called clokes, having velvet guards," they not being knights, or the heirs apparent of knights or gentlemen of sufficient means according to the statute. These presumptuous youths were convicted, heavily fined, and bound over to keep the peace.† Hats were among the articles of dress with which the corporation troubled themselves. None but the wives of aldermen were allowed to wear velvet hats ; an ordinance which was annulled in 1633.

Here also the bailiffs (afterwards the Mayor) and other officers of the corporation were annually chosen in a remarkable manner, according to an ordinance drawn up in 1491, which was observed until the passing of the Municipal Corporation Act in 1835. Dean Davies gives an

\* A favorite dish at Christmas time was the Norfolk game pie, or as it was called "a moste choyce paste of gamys." It comprised a pheasant, a hare, and a capon, two partridges, two pigeons, and two rabbits, all boned and put into a paste, and shaped like a bird ; also two livers and hearts, two mutton kidneys, forced meats, mushrooms, seasoning, spices, catsup, &c., filled in with gravy.

† The sumptuary laws of Henry IV. decreed imprisonment, during the King's pleasure, against any tailor who should dare to make for a commoner a costume above his degree. Dr. Doran informs us that John Drake, a Norwich shoemaker, resolving for once in his life to dress like a knight, betook himself to Sir Philip Calthorpe's tailor, and seeing some fine French tawney cloth which the cavalier had sent to have made into a gown, for gentlemen then as now sometimes "found their own materials," the aspiring crispin ordered one of the same stuff and fashion. The knight on calling at the tailor's, saw the two parcels and enquired as to the meaning. "John Drake," said the master, "will have a gown of the same fashion as your worship." "Will he so?" asked the proud Sir Philip, "then fashion mine as full of cuts as thy shears can make it, and let the two be alike as ordered." He was obeyed ; but when Drake saw the garment, and the peculiar making thereof, and was moreover told the reason, he rubbed his head and remarked, "by my lachet, an it be so, John Drake will never ask for gentleman's fashion again." *Habits of Men*, p. 42.

accurate description of it. "29th August 1689, being election day, I  
 "went to church and read prayers, and Mr. Milbourn preached. Then I  
 "went to the hall and saw the method of election, which was thus:—  
 "The aldermen and common councilmen being called over, the town  
 "clerk gave the senior bailiff forty-eight little tickets, whereon the names  
 "of the said commons were written, and out of which he selected twelve,  
 "being of those men who had served on the inquest the last year, then  
 "laid them by; then (the foreman of the inquest last year being in the  
 "north part of the town) some persons of the south end were selected as  
 "they stood in the impannel, and their names (on slips of paper carefully  
 "folded) were put into a hat; then as many more of the remainder were  
 "put into each of three other hats, being in all, the names of thirty-six  
 "persons; and when any of them failed to appear, a freeman (though  
 "not of the council) was appointed in his room; then a child, standing  
 "on a table, takes three tickets out of each hat, twelve in all, and  
 "gives them to the senior bailiff, who reads them out, and the persons  
 "coming up are sworn to choose fit persons for bailiffs and other officers  
 "for the ensuing year, and two serjeants are sworn to keep them  
 "without meat, drink, fire, or candle, until nine of the twelve were  
 "agreed. I then went to the stationer's and there read the news, and  
 "bought a quire of paper for eight pence; then came home to dinner  
 "with Mr. Ellys. At four o'clock we heard that the inquest had  
 "agreed; whereupon I went to the hall, and on the way went in and  
 "drank two glasses of wine with Alderman Collins. At the hall, the  
 "inquest being given in, Mr. Thomas England (second son of Sir George  
 "England) and Mr. Gabriel Ward were chosen bailiffs for the ensuing  
 "year, and according to custom we all waited upon them at their  
 "respective houses, and were treated."

The interval between the election on St. John's day and the inauguration on Michaelmas day was spent in preparations for the latter event. In the early morning the church bells rang a merry peal. The ships in the harbour hoisted their colours, many of the houses, both in streets and rows, displayed flags and garlands, which in some cases were suspended from house to house, as may still be seen on lord mayor's day in London. The mayor and aldermen, each with a bouquet of flowers



provided by the gaoler, breakfasted with the new elect, and then, in their scarlet robes, walked with him in procession to the guildhall, where they were met by the common councilmen in their black gowns, and then all proceeded to the parish church, where morning service was celebrated and a sermon preached; which being ended the corporation returned to the guildhall, and the new elect was "sworn in," the junior alderman holding the Bible. The retiring bailiffs (or mayor) then delivered up the pocket mace and the official seals; the recorder or sub-steward made a speech congratulatory to the new and complimentary to the old mayor (much as the Lord Chancellor is still accustomed to do), and there was much shaking of hands. A deed transferring the prisoners in the gaol from one chief magistrate to the other was then sealed, the gaoler delivered up his keys, the water-bailiff and the five sergeants their several maces, and they with the other officers elected by the inquest or annually appointed, were sworn; and at two o'clock the guild dinner was served in the great hall of the priory; the rest of the day being spent in feasting and jollity.

After the demolition of the old guildhall and the erection of the town hall, these ceremonies were modified. The breakfast was dispensed with; evening prayers were substituted for morning service; and after 1734 the mayor, upon being sworn, retired to a private room, where the junior alderman transferred the gold chain from the neck of one mayor to that of his successor, and when the usual business was concluded, a procession was formed which proceeded from the guildhall, by the Market and Broad rows (before Regent street was formed) to the town hall, where dinner was served at four o'clock. Women, strawing the path with flowers, led the way, and the procession was "flanked" by four drummers and four colourmen, who by dexterously flourishing their flags in all directions (after the manner of the whiffiers with their swords at Norwich) kept off the crowd. In 1804 the drummers were transformed into a band, which with the flags led the procession, the line being kept by constables; an innovation much disliked at the time by some old corporators.

In this guildhall, in 1684, the charter granted by Charles II., which provided for the election of a mayor instead of two bailiffs, and reduced

the number of aldermen and common councilmen, was publicly read, and George Ward, Esq., the senior bailiff, was sworn in as the first MAYOR, amidst the ringing of bells, the firing of guns, and other expressions of joy. There had been frequent contentions in the corporation before this change could be brought about; but the grant of this charter appears to have been highly popular. The instrument itself, a bulky document in a long red-leather case, with a place for the great seal, was entrusted to the Earl of Yarmouth, then high steward of the borough, who brought it from London as far as Littlebury, where he received intelligence of the serious illness of the countess, his wife, and was compelled to return to London, after placing the charter in the hands of his son, Viscount Paston, who brought it as far as Haddiscoe, where his lordship was met by the mayor elect, with a numerous train of carriages and near four hundred horsemen. The cavalcade then returned to Yarmouth, bringing the charter with them, and having crossed the bridge they were greeted by a vast concourse of people assembled on the quay, where the mayor elect delivered his precious burthen to Mr. Robert Huntingdon and Mr. Gabriel Ward, the two chamberlains. A procession was then formed, which proceeded through the principal streets to the guildhall. Lord Paston and the gentlemen who brought the charter to the town were publicly entertained.

By introducing the element of chance, the use of the ballot, and other checks and safeguards, endeavours were made from the earliest times to prevent any preponderating influence in the corporation. The aldermen were selected from the common councilmen, and at their election the bailiffs (or mayor) and aldermen withdrew into a separate room, and a ballot box having the names of three common councilmen was then produced. A second ballot took place between the two highest, and the common councilman who by this process had the largest number of votes was sent for to the aldermen's room and sworn in. Common councilmen were selected from the freemen. The mayor and aldermen having withdrawn from the assembly, six names were put on the ballot box, which was then placed in another room, and each common councilman, beginning at the youngest, went alone and voted.

When all had done so the town clerk proclaimed the result, and the name for whom the greatest number of balls had been given was taken from the box ; and another ballot then took place, and the name which was then highest was taken off, and the two names sent to the aldermen, who in their separate chamber, by ballot, selected one ; and then, returning into the common hall, the mayor proclaimed their choice, and the common councilman elect was sent for and sworn in. Many ingenious devices were adopted to work this complicated machinery to a proposed end. If the majority of the common councilmen were determined to elect a freeman who was known to be obnoxious to the aldermen, they would send up with his name that of another, whom from his inferior position or known bad character it would be impossible to select, and so the obnoxious individual was forced upon them. Arrangements and compromises were also made before hand, so that the result of the ballot was often predicted with certainty.

The only other grand assembly in the year, at which the freemen at large were entitled to be present, was held on the Friday before Palm Sunday, usually called Black Friday, upon which the year's accounts of the corporation were "read off." This was the remnant of the old right which centuries previously the freemen had to a deliberative vote. These accounts were kept in a very peculiar manner under separate heads ; and were audited by four members of the select body annually chosen by the inquest on St. John's Day. Their labours were cheered by frequent dinners, culminating on Black Friday in a great feast called the audit dinner, to which the corporation and many of the principal inhabitants were invited.

At the commencement of the 18th century, the guildhall, then very old and decayed, the principal room inconveniently narrow, and the building in many respects deficient in accommodation, was pulled down, and a new hall erected on the *South Foreland* at the *Furlong's end*, in which ever after all corporation feasts were held. The old idea, however, of having a *Guildhall* close to the church, could not be got rid of, and a new one was erected on the west side of the church gate.\*

\* There is a view of this hall in Corbridge's map, and also in Preston's *Picture of Yarmouth*, but it is to be regretted that there is no representation extant of the previous guildhall.

It was customary, both in the ancient guildhall and that of more modern construction, to present the freedom of the borough to distinguished persons, and also to "swear in" high stewards. One of the most remarkable of these ceremonies took place on the 31st of July, 1732, when Sir Robert Walpole, the Prime Minister, attended for this purpose. On his entering the town, the corporation received him "in their formalities," under the discharge of cannon, and conducted him to the guildhall, where the mayor (Anthony Taylor, Esq.) delivered to him the patent, constituting him high steward of the borough, contained in a silver box; whereupon Sir Robert "made a very handsome speech." He was afterwards "most sumptuously entertained" at a dinner, and "all possible marks of respect were shown him." Next day Sir Robert proceeded to Norwich, where he was met three miles from the city by the bishop and dean, a considerable number of clergy, and near one thousand citizens on horseback, with a great train of coaches, "amidst the joyful acclamations of a very numerous body of people."\*

Every Sunday morning it was customary for the mayor to receive the members of the corporation in this hall, and, wearing his robe and chain, and preceded by the insignia of his office, to go in procession with them to church, where special seats were provided; that for the mayor, being at the south-east corner of the south aisle, on a level with and close to the pulpit.† At the conclusion of the service the officiating minister turned in the pulpit and bowed to the mayor who, having bowed in return, left the church with the corporation, in the same order as they had entered it, the mayor not stopping at the guildhall, but going on to his own residence, where, on "scarlet days," those who accompanied him were entertained with a "whet."

Here also it was customary to nominate candidates for the representation of the borough. As politics generally ran high in Yarmouth, this hall was on these occasions much crowded, and courtesies were

\* Sir Robert Walpole left fifty guineas for distribution in Yarmouth; and in the severe winter of 1739, he sent fifty guineas to be laid out in coals for the poor.

† On the demolition of the aldermen's gallery in 1848, this seat was removed and placed in the council chamber of the Tolhouse hall.

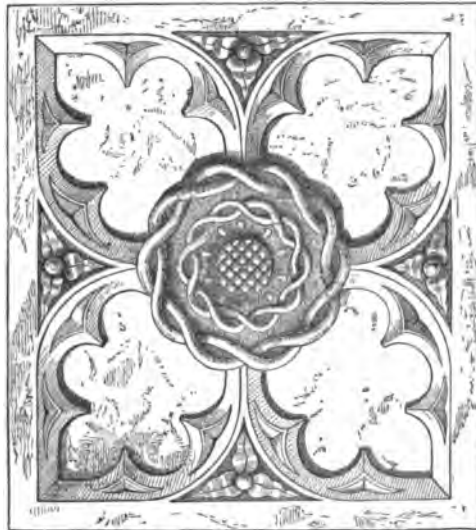
not always exchanged.\* In later years the windows were taken out, and a platform erected outside, upon which the nomination took place, and from it the candidates addressed the electors who were assembled below.†

The Municipal Corporation Act did away with the grand assemblies and the old ceremony of electing a mayor; and the guildhall becoming of little use was pulled down in 1849, and the site thrown into the churchyard.‡

• On one occasion (in 1796) Mr. Edmund Cobb Hurry, a tall and powerful man, and an ardent supporter of Sir John Jervis, pressed so much upon Mr. Jodrell, the other candidate, as to push him off his legs, just as he was about to address the electors; which led to a great uproar.

† After the demolition of the guildhall, this ceremony took place on a platform erected on the north side of the town hall until 1859, when the balcony of the *Crown and Anchor* tavern on the quay was used for the purpose.

‡ The chair of state, with its gaudy pillars and canopy of white and gold, in which civil authority had been seated for so many years, was sold with the old materials on the church plain, for £3 18s. *Sic transit.*



*Ancient stone panel belonging to the Old Guild Hall.*

## CHAPTER IV.

*Proba merx facile emptorem invenit.*

ET us now return to the Market place, which we are informed by Manship was partially paved in 1385 ; but it was not until 1650 that such pavement was completed. A cross, testifying to the christian character of the town, was usually erected in the centre of every Market place ; and we find that there was one at Yarmouth at a very early period, for in 1385 a new cross was set up and covered with lead. This cross decaying, "a very fair one was, at "the town's charge, erected in 1509, and was very fairly paved and "leaded for the safe guarding of the people from wet, and for the dry "keeping of the corn which every market day was brought in great "abundance ; whereunto be fixed measures to buy and sell with ; and "wherein the bailiffs (who be clerks of the market) do sit and hold "court, to enquire of all matters concerning that business, and to "punish the offenders accordingly." After standing for nearly a century this cross gave way to another, "in stateliness not much inferior," which was built in 1604, at the top of which a place was made "where malefactors might receive punishment," as Manship designated the pillory. This stood until 1729, when "being greatly out of repair "the pillory was taken down, and the lead used for the purpose of covering the town clerk's office. The last cross, which was of a circular shape supported on pillars, is depicted in Butcher's view of the Market place. It was pulled down in 1836, a stone still marking the place where it stood ; and since that period there has been no Market cross.\*

\* The cross in Norwich Market place, erected in 1501, was taken down in 1732. There is an engraved view of it.

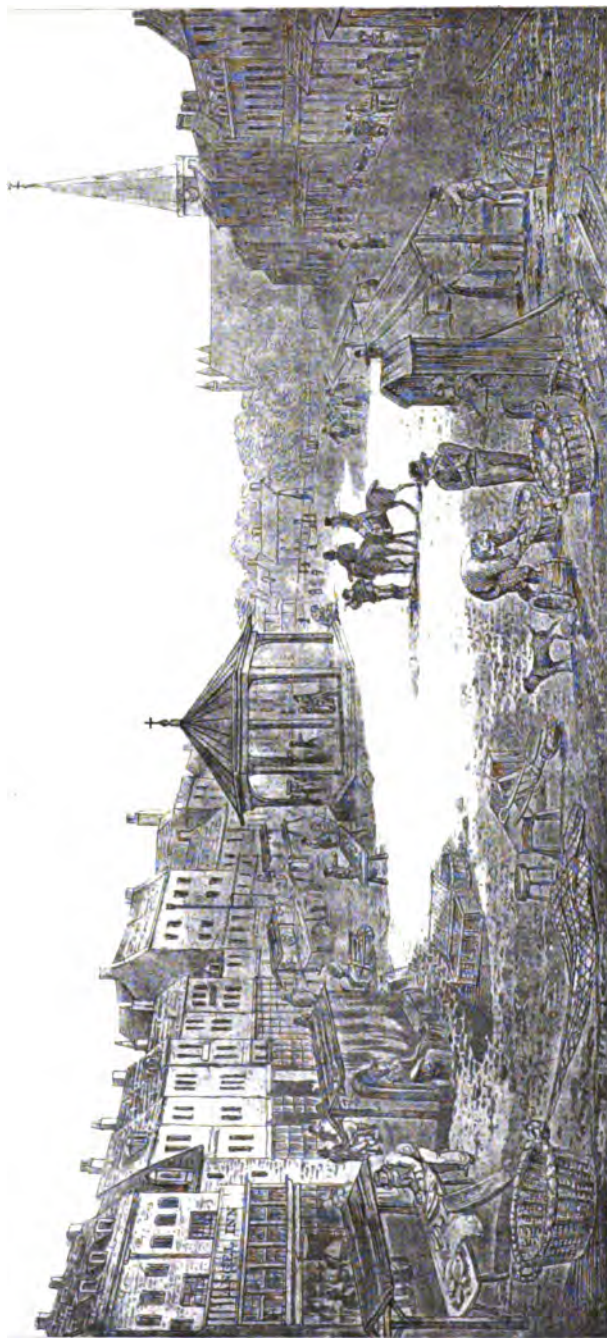
It was the first place at which all notifications were made. There Kings and Queens were proclaimed; and, in 1688, a declaration was published calling for a free Parliament; and to the usual ending of "God save the King," was congruously added "God prosper the Prince of Orange." Ives informs us that on the 31st of October, 1739, "Mr. Mayor and a body of gentlemen met at the town hall, and thence proceeded to the cross, where Mr. Town Clerk read the declaration for war against Spain, with the naked sword; thence to the bridge foot and read the declaration, and then drank success to his majesty's forces by sea and land."\*

A pillory or stretchneck was appurtenant to the liberty of a market, and might formerly be used at the discretion of the magistrate. Bakers, for default of weight, were to be adjudged to the pillory, which punishment was not to be "remitted for gold or silver." Brewers also, for not keeping the assize, were for a second offence "to suffer judgment of the pillory without redemption;" as were butchers for selling unwholesome meat. On the accession of Queen Mary, when factions ran high, Robert Marsh was placed in the pillory "for scandalizing Sir Thomas Woodhouse." "It was once," said Lord Coke, in his address to a grand jury at Norwich, "my hap to take a clerke of the market in his trickes; but I advanst him higher than his father's sonne, by so much as from the ground to the toppe of the pillorie."

Fairs, which in former times were of great public utility for displaying goods not otherwise to be procured, were always held in the Market place. The one at Shrove tide, was called cock fair, from the barbarous sport of cock throwing once universal at this season;† and another was held on Good Friday, the most holy day in Lent, which fair continued until 1715, when the corporation ordered it to be kept on the Friday in Easter week. The annual fair at Norwich is still kept in Passion week, on the Thursday before Good Friday.

\* It has been the custom at Yarmouth during the time of war to keep the mayor's sword unsheathed on all public occasions, and to sheath it on the declaration of peace. This custom was observed during the Crimean war.

† It is also called orange fair, that fruit being then in perfection.



THE MARKET PLACE.





The Stocks have already been mentioned, as standing in the Market place *in terrorem ebriorum*.\*

When the whipping of offenders was a punishment inflicted in public, the Market place was the scene of it. Thus in 1734, Sarah Johnson, a widow, for stealing three gold rings and a silver spoon from Thomas Harwood, was "whip'd upon a cart round the Market place."†

\* Those at Acle bore this inscription—

*These stocks prepared are you see,  
For those who will not ruled be.*

† The summary punishment of whipping was frequently inflicted at the gaol in the presence of the bailiffs. We find by the "Relation" of the Cinque port bailiffs at Yarmouth in 1603, that a sailor, aged 20, who had been brought before them for stealing "an old cassock," which he then had on his back, was in their presence "well whipped" and then sent to Ipswich, to which place he belonged. On another occasion, a man and his wife with a young child were brought before them as "vagrants" and were committed to prison, "for that it was very suspicious they never were married." Being brought up again the man confessed that he had stolen "certain lincks" of the value of 6d., and had at the time he was apprehended, assaulted the officer, for which offences, said the bailiffs, "he was openly before us well whipped, and being urged to confess truly whether the woman was his lawful wife or not, he would not by any means confess the contrary." The woman was then brought before them "ready to be whipped," but she would not confess otherwise than that she was lawfully married, whereupon, say the compassionate bailiffs, "in respect for her weakness and having a young child sucking, her punishment was remitted," but the offenders were all sent off to Cleethorpe, in Lincolnshire, to which place they belonged. Ned Ward, in his description of London in 1699, affirms that at Bridewell when a woman was under the lash in the next room, the folding doors were opened, that the court might view the punishment. Whipping appears to have been considered as an effectual remedy for mental and bodily as well as moral deficiencies. At Worcester we find that men and women were whipped promiscuously till the close of the last century. In 1680 there is a charge of 4d. "for whipping a wench;" and in 1759 "for whipping Elizabeth Bradbury 2s. 6d." which probably included the hire of the cart. In the constable's book of Great Staughton there are these entries;—"1699, Pd. in charges, taking up a distracted woman, watching her, and whipping her next day, 8s. 6d." "1710, Pd. Thos. Hawkiss for whipping 2 people yt. had the small pox 8d." "1712, Pd. for whipping Goody Barry 4d." The whipping of females, under any pretence, was finally abolished by the 1 Geo. IV. cap. 57, usually called "General Thornton's Act," (1820). The whipping of vagrants was in accordance with the 27 Henry VIII.; but if "they should happen to wander, loiter, or idly use themselves," they were not only to be whipped again, but to have "the upper part of the gristle of the right ear clean cut off," that it might always appear the sufferer was a contemner of good order. For

In 1763 two sailors were whipped round the Market place, receiving four lashes under each public-house sign, for stealing goods from ships. In the following year a man, for stealing three bushels of barley, was whipped round the Market. Persons who had "foresworn themselves" were required to wear a paper upon their heads "in open market," or else to pay a fine of 40s. "for redemption of wearing the said paper." Formerly it was the custom when a husband was dissatisfied with the extravagance of his wife, to have her *cried down at the cross*. In latter times the announcement was made by the bellman during his daily round, but now it is made by a printed handbill or by advertisement in the local papers. Another purpose to which the Market place was applied was the publication of the names of parties intending to marry, on three successive market days, in pursuance of an Act passed in 1653 by Cromwell's "Little Parliament." It was not prescribed who was to make the publication, and it seems that the bellman was frequently employed to perform this duty.\* In 1550 it was ordered that none should buy or sell before the bell rang in the morning, or after it had been sounded at 3 p.m. Forestalling and regrating were offences punished with great severity.†

On Wednesdays and Saturdays, the usual market days (but especially on the latter), this fine Market place is covered with stalls placed in regular ranks from north to south, each stall paying to the third offence the punishment was death. Impotent persons begging, without a license, were to be "stripped naked from the middle upwards" and scourged; but men and women "whole and mighty in body" found vagrant, were to be tied to the end of a cart (or at the "cart's tail," as it was vulgarly called) naked, and to be beaten with whips throughout the town till the body was bloody "by reason of such whipping." By a statute passed in 1791 the whipping of female vagrants was forbidden.

\* Parties might have their names proclaimed in church after "morning exercise;" but the marriage had to take place before a justice of peace, the clergy being forbidden to perform any of the offices of the church.

† The last conviction was probably in 1816, when William Barrow was indicted "for regrating mutton in the market of this borough." By the 5 & 6 Edward VI. c. 14, whoever bought corn with intent to sell it again was liable to forfeit the value and to suffer two months' imprisonment; for a second offence, double the value and six months; and for a third, to forfeit all his goods, stand in the pillory, and suffer imprisonment during the king's pleasure.

town council or their lessee a certain regulated rent.\* Anciently the inhabitants of Ormesby sat in Yarmouth market without payment, because the lands in Ormesby being of ancient demesne gave them, as they contended, an exemption. This right was contested by the town council in 1862. It was proved that at and prior to 1445 and thenceforth, there had always been a public market at Yarmouth belonging to the corporation, who were the owners of the soil, that the manor of Ormesby was a manor of ancient demesne, and that the inhabitants of Ormesby using the market had never been charged with any toll or other payment. The Court of Exchequer decided that such inhabitants of Ormesby as were tenants in ancient demesne were exempt from *toll*; but inasmuch as the town council were the owners of the soil, such tenants could expose no goods for sale on a stall, ped, or other structure whatever, whether fixed in the ground or not, without being liable to *stallage*, and so their exemption was of no value. Instead of collecting *stallage*, the town council now let their rights; the present lessee paying them a rental of £800 per annum.

A book stall may always be found on market days. It seems an old practice, for Dean Davies says:—"9th August, 1689. As I went 'towards the church, I bought Godbury's *Thesaurus*, which cost me 'nine shillings and sixpence, and then I went forward and spent the day 'in close study in the vestry." At proclamations of peace, and upon royal birthdays, and other occasions of public rejoicings, it was usual to fire vollies of musketry in the Market place. This was done when peace was proclaimed in 1763, and in the evening there were fireworks. On the 1st of January, 1801, the Durham militia, then quartered in Yarmouth, fired a *feu de joie* in celebration of the union between Great Britain and Ireland. In 1856 the same thing was done on the proclamation of peace with Russia. It was formerly the custom on occasions of great public rejoicings to roast whole bullocks, and then cut up the carcase for the enjoyment of the populace, to be washed down by a plentiful supply of beer. The last bullock roasted (and it is to be hoped the last that ever will be roasted) whole in Yarmouth Market

\* In former times drapers, mercers, grocers, and haberdashers had stalls in the Market place, but were prohibited by an ordinance made in 1611.

place was on the 19th July, 1821, in celebration of the coronation of George IV.; and in the evening there was a display of fireworks, the whole costing the corporation upwards of £200.\*

In 1551 "flesh shambles," as they were then called, were built on the east side of the Market place, between the hospital of St. Mary and the Market gate, upon ground which had belonged to the hospital, but which was then with the building itself, in the possession of the corporation. All the town butchers were required to sell their victuals there, and not elsewhere in the town, upon pain of the loss of 20s., and to be discommoded; whilst for their encouragement it was agreed that such butchers should enjoy their stalls for life, paying a small rent to the corporation. Country butchers could sell meat in the Market on market days only, and not then unless they brought beef as well as veal. This was the origin of the butchery, the houses and shops composing which are now held under leases granted by the charity trustees, in whom the estates of the hospital of St. Mary are vested.

Beatniffe, writing in 1776, and speaking of the Market place, says "it is shocking to see butchers daily slaughtering calves, sheep, &c. in "the centre of such an opulent town, resorted to by crowds of genteel "company from almost every part of England." This was contrary to the statute of the 4th Henry VII. c. 2, which forbade any beast to be slaughtered within any walled town. Subsequently the shambles were placed just without and under the town wall; but by the increase of houses they are now surrounded by buildings. John Matthews, a butcher, who died in 1803, aged 56, desired these verses, of his own composition, to be placed on his tomb:—

*"By this inscription be it understood,*

*"My occupation was in shedding blood!*

*"For many a beast by me was weekly slain,*

*"Hunger to quell, and thousands to maintain.*

*"Now here I rest, from pain and sorrow free,*

*"My hope in Him, who shed His blood for me."*

\* Slices of the roast meat cut in small pieces were handed on plates to the ladies and gentlemen who witnessed the spectacle from the windows of the shops in the Market place. *Meo periculo.*

The butchery is probably the last place in the town where a "Romance of the Peerage" might be expected to be found; yet the following story tends to prove that truth is sometimes stranger than fiction. In the last century there lived in the household of a Yarmouth butcher a young girl, named Mary Fair. Fair by name, and fair by nature she was; for she is described by those who knew her, as having been remarkably beautiful. She performed the humble duties of her station with great propriety, but she had a conviction in her own mind that she was destined to be a great lady. One day the butcher invited some friends to dinner, and Mary Fair made ready the table. The mistress of the house wanting the girl for some purpose, suddenly opened the dining room door, and there, to her surprise, saw Mary Fair seated at the head of the table, dispensing imaginary good things to her supposed guests seated round it, all of whom she addressed by titles of honor. Naturally abashed at being so caught, she nevertheless could not abandon the idea that she would one day really preside at such a table; nor was she disappointed, for in 1788 John, third Viscount Dudley and Ward, fell in love with and married her.\*

Dr. Carlyle, of Inverness, whose memoirs are such agreeable reading, writing in 1745, says "the market people are clean beyond example; and the butchers themselves dress with great neatness. In short there is nothing to offend the eye or any of the senses in Yarmouth market. Very genteel looking women were providing for their families."

White, in his *Eastern England*, thus describes Yarmouth Market place:—"What with the unusually large area, the great gathering of rustic folk and town folk, their words and ways, and peculiar appliances, the Market place presents a spectacle full of interest. Long rows of stalls stretch from end to end, and you pass from peas and potatoes, musrooms as large as dinner plates, very fine raspberries,

\* She was then the widow of a Mr. Baker. Lord Ward survived his marriage only three months, dying on the 10th of October, 1788, aged 64. Lady Ward (who is stated by Debrett to have been the daughter of Gamaliel Fair, "of Norfolk") married thirdly in 1790 Benjamin Jennings, Esq., and fourthly in 1791 Capt. J. Smith, R.N.; and after these "happy despatches" died herself in 1810.

“luscious strawberries, and other fruits and vegetables, to a display of  
 “meat and poultry not to be seen elsewhere, beyond which are baskets,  
 “bedding, boxes, shoes, frippery, old iron, new hardware, and second-  
 “hand books. Here sits a busy knife-grinder, whirling off a stream  
 “of sparks, amid an admiring group. Yonder stands Cheap Jack,  
 “within a circle of crockery, vociferating after his manner and keeping  
 “the crowd in good humour by his jokes. In another place we see  
 “what becomes of the rushes with which the broads abound; for here  
 “are hassocks, cushions, matting, and horse collars, all made of them.”

Adjoining the *Market gate* on the north side, was an ancient  
 hostelry called the *Feathers*, by which name it has been known for three  
 centuries.\* It was one of the principal Inns in the town, and in 1581  
 it was enlarged by some ground granted by the corporation. Stevenson,  
 in his *Norfolk Drollery* published in 1673, in describing the visit of  
 King Charles II. to Yarmouth, says:—

“Soldiers and servants with the court came down,  
 “And at the *Feathers*, gratis, got high flown.”

In 1685 Sir Henry Shiers, an eminent engineer, was, by the King’s  
 permission, brought down by the Earl of Yarmouth to inspect the  
 haven, and advise upon its improvement; and the corporation enter-  
 tained him “splendidly” at the *Feathers*.†

Dean Davies, writing in 1619, says:—“October 6th. After dinner,  
 “meeting Mr. Thomas Ellys, I went with him to his house, and there  
 “sat some time with Mr. Fuller. Thence I went with Dr. Hudson to



\* This sign, taken from the plume of ostrich  
 feathers assumed by the Black Prince after the battle  
 of Cressy in 1349, soon became extensively used. The  
 Black Prince was highly popular, and his shield of  
 arms is on the ceiling of the south aisle of St. Nicholas'  
 church, in succession to that of Edward III.

† Complaints are now made of the charges of  
 engineers, but we find that upon this occasion Sir  
 Henry Shiers was paid 100 guineas for his journey,  
 besides his travelling expenses, and five guineas were  
 given to his coachman. The corporation also pre-  
 sented the earl with a tun of wine for obtaining the  
 king's permission to employ Shiers.

“the *Feathers*, where he gave me a bottle of liquid laudanum and my sermon I had lent him. When I came home I found three letters—“one from the Archbishop of Tuam.”\*

When Viscount Townshend, then lord lieutenant of Norfolk, paid a visit to Yarmouth in 1701, he was entertained at the house of Benjamin England, Esq.; but his carriages, horses, and servants were sent to the *Feathers*.

Until the reign of Henry VII., ale was sold without any restriction, except that all public-houses had to be closed at the tolling of curfew. Wine could be sold only at taverns; and in the time of Edward III. no more than three were allowed in London. The unrestricted sale of ale having become a nuisance, an act was passed in 1497 empowering any two justices to suppress an alehouse at their discretion; but it was not until the reign of Edward VI. that stringent laws were enacted to check the enormous evils of which the immoderate and habitual use of alcohol, in any shape, was and ever will be the fruitful mother. In 1635 taverns, inns, and alehouses had so greatly increased as to become “great pests;” and an Act of Parliament was then made that none should be set up or continued without a license. Many regulations were from time to time made for their good government, and signs were required to be displayed; hence the vulgar phrase “where do you hang out?” There were unlicensed houses, however, where beer could be had; the master standing at his door praising his liquor, and inviting the passers by to come in and drink “with his wife and maids,” which implied “a verye evyll rule.” Publicans were required to use measures properly stamped; but one way of cheating was to have them stamped when the wood was green, so that when it shrunk they did not hold the proper quantity.

The *Feathers* was the last house at which the ancient sport of “cocking” was held. It appears, however, that early in the 18th century a public house called the *Billiards* was frequented for this purpose. In 1728 a match was fought, between the gentlemen of Yarmouth and those of Suffolk, for two guineas a battle and four guineas the odd battle; “there being a large pit, and very pleasant

\* The dean was skilled in medicine, and frequently prescribed for his friends.



sitting for the spectators." In 1732, at the *Crown* at Swaffham, a match was fought between Lord Lovel of Holkham and John Thurston of Hoxne, Suffolk, with forty-six cocks on a side, at five guineas a battle and fifty guineas the odd battle.\* It was the custom in Norfolk for the tenant of any considerable landowner, to provide a couple of fighting cocks annually for his landlord's amusement. This prevailed in the Walpole family down to 1806, when a fat turkey was substituted. Cock-fighting continued to be a favorite amusement until after the commencement of the present century; and the mains to be fought were advertized in the papers, as cricket matches are at the present time.†

Gambling in alehouses was strictly prohibited; in 1551 John Mapyes was fined for suffering a game called "alyde grote" to be played. In

\* "8th July, 1740. Very warm day. Lord Lovel came to town and invited the gentlemen of the corporation to sup with him."—*Ives' M.S. Journal*. Thomas Coke, of Holkham, created in 1728 Baron Lovel of Minster Lovel, was advanced to the Viscounty of Coke and Earldom of Leicester in 1744, and died in 1759—*s. p. m.*—when all his honors became extinct.

† We often hear of the "cockpit" at Whitehall (built by Henry VIII.), which continued in the eighteenth century to be literally used as such. Syllas Neville thus describes it:—"8 Jan. 1767. About six, went through the park to the cockpit, where "I beheld a scene of noise, cruelty, and brutality. It is a circular place with rows of "seats one above another, having a platform in the middle lighted by a lustre, which "hangs near a floor covered with matting, and surrounded by a ledge six or seven "inches high, behind which, each pair of victims, clipped and deprived of a great "part of their feathers and armed with steel spurs, are held by the feeders, and given "by them to the setters at the opposite sides of the platform, who let the birds fly at "each other. I saw four or five pair fight, but some battles had been fought before "I went in. Some ran away; others are killed on the spot. When one was killed by "the first stroke of his antagonist, a great noise was made by the spectators. "Poulterers, butchers, and other low fellows proposed bets; and great anxiety "appeared in their countenances during the battle. A gentleman, with whom were "some foreigners one of whom wore a star, desired one of the feeders, when the "fighting was over, to show them the pens. I took the opportunity and followed "them, and saw the spurs on the sockets and feathers which go round the legs and "are fixed upon the natural spurs, the greater part of which are sawed off. He showed "other spurs, not mortal, which are put on when they wish to try if a cock be game. "Each cock inhabits a little pen or coop. Saw one poor creature whose throat had "been cut last night, but may recover. These monsters propose to set him down "without spurs and suffer another to tear him, to see if he is true game. They "match their cocks by weight."

the following year John Harwarde was indicted for permitting John Gawyns and others to play with certain "*carta picta* cards."\* The aldermen and constables were directed to apprehend any person smoking tobacco† (when first introduced), or overcome with drink.

Another public house, on the east side of the Market place, was called the *Bull*.‡ It was used as a sign here when bull baiting was a favorite amusement, and it may surprise many readers to learn that bulls were publicly baited in this Market place in the 18th century. Ives, sen., writing in 1736 says,—“Dec. 8. Very sharp day. I saw a bull baited in the market—good sport.” Butchers were prohibited from selling bull beef, unless the bull had been baited.§

\* By a statute of Henry VII. card-playing was prohibited, save during the Christmas holidays, when great license prevailed.

“*Christmas to hungry stomachs gives relief,*  
“*With mutton, pork, pies, pasties, and roast beef;*  
“*And men, at cards, spend many idle hours*  
“*At loadum, whisk, cross-ruff, put, and all fours.*”

† The use and abuse of tobacco led to much controversy and to many curious regulations. James I. delighted in lampoons against a practice which he detested. In a song which was sung before him it was said that—

“*Tobacco is a lawyer,*  
“*Like him it loves long cases,*  
“*And when our brains it enters,*  
“*Our feet they make indentures*  
“*Which they seal with stamping paces—*  
“*And then we cry—Soho! boys!*”

To be a “puffer of tobacco” was a disqualification to many offices. In 1632 the privy council declared that “intolerable inconveniences” had arisen from “the great disorder used in selling tobacco;” and the bailiffs were desired “to make choice of honest and fit persons” who alone should have the privilege. They sent up the names of one apothecary, six grocers, two hosiers, one merchant, and a chairmaker.

‡ The *Bull's Head* was an ancient sign. It was borne as a device on the standard of Lord Hastings in 1520; but probably it has been used in later times, more in reference to a baron of beef than in compliment to a baron of old.

§ Perkins, in his *Cases of Conscience*, says that baiting of the bear and cock fights are no meet recreations, but bull baiting hath its use, and is therefore commended by civil authority. Dr. Parr is reported to have been partial to bull baiting. It also received encouragement from Windham. A better feeling for humanity to the

inferior animals now prevails. The following letter addressed by Lord Erskine to Syllas Neville, has never been published.

No. 14, Arabella Row, Lower Grosvenor Street,

Sir,

7 Jan., 1821.

I am much obliged by and pleased with your interesting letter, and I assure you that I should have much regretted that any accident should have deprived me of the correspondence of a gentleman, whose humanity entitles him to so much regard. You express a hope that I have not relinquished the protection of the lower world. God forbid! but I have been obliged to *appear to do so*, by waiting for the *fulness of time* for its success. If I had not taken that course in the great cause of the liberty of the press, it never could have succeeded. The *Libel Bill* had been often brought into Parliament, and miscarried; and when I was fortunate enough, through the cause of the Dean of St. Asaph and others, about that time to create a strong interest and feeling on the subject, the time had still not arrived for carrying it through; and I waited therefore until Lord Mansfield had retired from public life, and I prevailed, with the powerful co-operation of my friend, Mr. Fox. The same difficulties now attend this great cause; our duty to the lower world. I concur in all that you say of Mr. Windham, who was a most amiable and enlightened man; but the unfortunate *twist* he had upon that subject occasioned more mischief out of Parliament than in it. He lived in the closest intimacy with the principal members of the opposition party, and had preoccupied their minds to such an extent, as to make the wisest of them publicly maintain the most absurd and degrading objections to any relief by law, to the basest cruelties practised upon those innocent animals which the benevolence of God has created for our use; so that I had not only to oppose a powerful government and the *lawyers* of the House of Lords, who might be more against the bill *because I was its author*, but to argue against my own friends also, who under the auspices of Windham had committed themselves by doctrines of the most absurd and dangerous description; so that at this moment I am bending under the same storm, but which I believe will blow over *before I go hence*; and you may be assured that I shall eagerly watch the season of attack. England would have been ruined if Alfred had fought the Danes in the fulness of their strength: he saved his country by disguising himself, and, coming with a harp in his hand into the Danish camp, knew the time for execution with safety. In Lord Ellenborough, one powerful enemy is gone already; Windham also (I grieve for it on all other accounts) is removed; and I think I can look forward with hope to a period when I can prevail. The base sports you stigmatise I abhor, and when I can I shall strike at them.

The next time that I come into your part of the country to visit Lord Albemarle or Mr. Coke, it will give me much pleasure to make myself personally known to you as I pass through Norwich. In the meantime permit me to assure you of my esteem.

Your faithful humble servant,

ERSKINE.

P.S.—In a Romance which I wrote a few years ago, called *Armata*, I exposed with bitter reproach the conduct of the House of Lords, for neglecting a bill which they allowed me unanimously to introduce.—*Autograph penes* Rev. T. G. F. Howes.

Pugilism, another brutal amusement, was contemporary with bull baiting, and much encouraged by butchers.\*

There is an excellent print of Yarmouth Market place, by Rowlandson, in 1799, now very scarce. By it the trees on the east side appear to have extended to the cross, with which they were connected by a line of posts. Several Yarmouth carts are depicted, all with solid wheels. In the centre, a regiment of soldiers is drawn up under arms. The houses constituting the butchery appear old and dilapidated. On the west side there is "Downes' book and print warehouse."

Adjoining the Market gate to the south, and fronting the Market place, is a space which, for ages, has been used as a retail *Fish Market*. It was originally entirely uncovered, but in 1625 the open stalls† were roofed over, and no fish could then be sold elsewhere. The stall ends were carved, and the roofs were supported by grotesque figures of animals. In 1844 they were all swept away, and a new market formed, surrounded by iron balustrades, which in 1869 shared the same fate; and a portion of the market was then thrown into the adjoining road. On the south side of the *Fish Market* is a publichouse, formerly called *The Jolly Butchers*,

\* In 1732 William Emerson of Norwich, called the Norfolk champion, was killed in a prize fight by Andrew Reed of Spalding. Syllas Neville thus describes a fight of which he was a spectator in 1772. "Dr. Baker and I went to see a battle "between Agur, the noted bruising butcher of Norwich, and one Bully, who had "accepted his challenge. They fought on Lingwood Green, but there was no match, "for Bully was soon beaten. The butchers pretend that their hero was never beaten, "but it is said that Gunton, a brewer, with whom he fought lately, really worsted him, "so that he lay beyond the time allowed by the articles established among them; but "Gunton was deprived of the honors of victory by the tricks of the butchers. It is "surprising what a concourse of people of all ranks there was to see this fight, and what "gambling! A little fellow, a butcher, who stood near me, and who did not seem "worth £5, had £100 depending on his hero. Both combatants were tall men." Mendoza fought and won a battle in Norfolk in 1788; and the fame he acquired long survived. "I'll give you a Mendoza," was a threat of punishment used even by nurserymaids, having its origin in remembrance of his heavy blows. This house (the *Bull*) was kept by John Cooper, who died in 1823, aged 55. His only child married Painter, the Norfolk pugilist, who for many years had a public house at Norwich. Yarmouth, down to the present century, has been considered a fit place for "training." Mace was the last pugilist trained here.

† In the troublous times of the civil war, the "Fish Stalls" were occupied by the soldiers as a "Court of Guard;" but were vacated by them in 1649.

afterwards *The Fish Stalls*, and now rebuilt and called *The Market Tavern*. It is partly erected upon the site of a blacksmith's shop, where horses were shod, represented in Butcher's view of the Market place; where may also be seen the above publichouse with "Lacon's Nogg" on a projecting sign.\*

From the S.W. corner of the Market place a street runs southward, until it forms a junction with the east end of *Friar's lane*. So far back as 1683 it was called "the *King's street*," and perhaps it acquired the name in commemoration of the visit of Charles II. in 1671.† Originally, as Manahip informs us, there were three streets only, traversing the town from north to south; the houses on the west side of what is now King street being in his time open to the Town Wall, or "flankerwise" as he expresses it, "with such convenient distance from the walls that "the enemy having gained the walls and entered the town, may with "a few men be enforced to retire, and the town recovered without any "great danger sustained." This open space within the walls was occupied by ropemakers until 1678, when a demand for more houses having arisen, the corporation ordered "all the ropemakers' posts and things there to be pulled up." The ground was then sold for building purposes; and eventually a continuous row of houses was erected, which now forms the east side of King street.

DENE SIDE is the space next within the town wall, which continuing southward and following the curvature of the latter, forms a junction with the south end of King street and the east end of *Friars' lane*.

\* *Nogg* or *Nog* was a word in constant use in the last century, implying a superior ale. Thus in an old song we find—

"Boy—bring me the best in the cellar—

"Sir—this is a glass of old nog ;

"Then fill me a bumper—and tell her,

"Here's a health to sweet Molly Mog."

A rival rhymester wrote—

"Fair Phillis, my toast shall be still,

"In a glass of the best Yarmouth nog ;

"For whatever befall me, I will

"Prefer Phillis to sweet Molly Mog."

† After the erection of St. George's chapel in 1715, it was commonly called Chapel street.

## The Castle.



"Seated in the midst of the town" there was, says Manship, "a castle or military forefence." It was a square building or keep, having a turret or watch tower at each corner. It stood near Row No. 99, which is still called *The Castle Row*.

Among the followers of William the Conqueror was a Norman knight, named De Gournay from his ancestral castle in France, who in reward for his services obtained large possessions in England. After the suppression of the revolt of Guader, the Saxon Earl of Norfolk in 1075, some of his forfeited estates passed to the Gournays, including the manor of Caister next Yarmouth,\* where the earl had built a house, called in Domesday book *manerium*. In a pedigree of the family of Bardolph or Bardolf (for the name is written either way), signed by William Dethick, Garter, and William Camden, Clarenceux, in the hand-writing of Sir Henry Spelman and now preserved at Keswick, it is stated that William, Lord Bardolf, married Julia, daughter of Hugh Gournay, and that she brought as her dower, with other possessions, "the castle of Yarmouth." There is no record of the Gournays ever having had a castle at Caister, but merely a manor

\* There was a donation of the tithes of Caister and Cantley to the chapter of St. Hildevert at Gournay; and Hugh de Gournay granted, by charter, the churches of those parishes to the canons of the same order, which grant was confirmed by the Bishop of Norwich. These documents are printed in the *Record of the House of Gurney*, where is also a copy of an agreement between the above chapter and William Rufus, dean of Flegg, concerning the tithes of Caister. That parish was at one time much more extensive than at present, and three churches belonging to it are believed to have been swallowed up by the sea.

house or hall (*aula*); and it is probable that the Saxon Earls of Norfolk, when they held Caister, had a fortified house or castle at Yarmouth, which passed with the manor of Caister to the Gournays, and that the latter erected the building which is mentioned by Manship. Certain it is that Gerard de Gournay is called Baro de Yarmouth in an ancient pedigree of Talbot; probably on account of his holding the castle at Yarmouth. We have already noticed the *Lord's Quay*, near which was a place called *Gurney's Conge*. Whatever rights the Saxon Earls had in the town no doubt passed to the Gournays, but those rights could only have been exercised under the authority of the crown (the ground being *terra regis*), and must have wholly ceased on the grant of the charter of enfranchisement by King John. At an early period a younger branch of the baronial family of Gournay held lands at Swathings in Norfolk; and of this branch Edmund Gournay, a lawyer of eminence in the reigns of Edward III. and Richard II., by his marriage with the heiress of the ancient family of Wauncy, acquired the manor of West Barsham in Norfolk, which was from that period, for many generations, the chief seat of this family, which became extinct in the direct line in 1661. The systems of entail and primogeniture, forced the younger sons of country gentlemen to betake themselves to professions and trades. The Gurneys of Norwich and Keswick descend from Francis Gurnay, sixth son of Henry Gurnay of West Barsham, by Ellen Blennerhasset his wife. John, his grandson, born in 1655, settled in Norwich, and became the founder of the present family. He latterly spelt his name Gurney, as his descendants have ever since done. He embraced the tenets of the Quakers; and, possessing extraordinary talents for commercial affairs, realized a considerable fortune.\*

\* The *Record of the House of Gournay*, compiled from original documents by Daniel Gurney, Esq., of North Runcton, profusely illustrated, and printed for private distribution only, is probably the best English family history that has ever been published. The arms of the family of Gurney of Norfolk are *arg*, a cross engrailed *gu* (see fig. 3 in the annexed plate). The earliest mention of this coat occurs in 1270. Their crest is the Gurnard fish (*Trigla of Linnaeus*) in pale, which first occurs in 1440, and their badge or device was a wrestling collar, which they now use as a second crest. Traditionally the Lords of Gournay and of Caister and Yarmouth bore a shield of pure sable (fig. 1); and the Gournays of Somersetshire bore paly of six *or* and *az* (fig. 2).



1



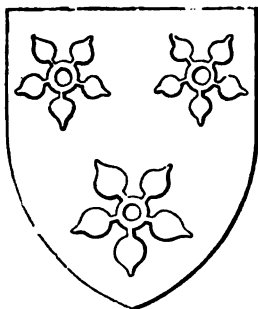
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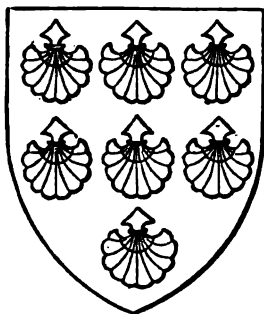






Sir Hugh Bardolf, the issue of the before mentioned marriage, born in 1255, was in 1294 summoned to attend a great council of the nation; and afterwards went with Edward I. into Gascony; and in 1300 accompanied that monarch in his expedition against the Scots. He had a grant of free warren and assize, with wreck of the sea, at Caister. John, Lord Bardolf, his grandson, was one of the commissioners of array for the county of Norfolk, previous to the expedition of Edward III. into Britany; and he and Lord Morley in 1339 had the "custody of the town." He was at the "winning of Calais," for which and other services he was in high favor with his King and popular at Yarmouth, and his shield of arms was placed on the ceiling of the south aisle of St. Nicholas' church, where it still remains.\* Thomas, Lord Bardolf, his grandson, was attainted and beheaded in 1404; and in 1554, Sir William Paston obtained a grant of the manor of Caister which had been forfeited to the crown.

When the castle of Yarmouth first became alienated from the Bardolfs does not appear, but we find that John de Beverley held "a piece of land with the edifices and appurtenances in Great Yarmouth called *The Castle*, which was formerly Robert Thurkyld's," upon condition of supporting a wax candle "next before the crucifix hanging "in the nave of the church of St. Nicholas, Great Yarmouth, which "said wax candle should always be of the weight of 2 lbs. at the least,



"as often as it should be made new, without "an increment of any little candle, there at "all times to burn, as is usual to be observed "of the candles in the choir." This particularity shows what cheating sometimes took place in the matter of holy candles.

\* The arms of Bardolf were *az*, three cinque foils *or*. Robert, Lord Scales, married Elizabeth, daughter of William, Lord Bardolf, and his arms *gu*, seven escallops, three, three and one *arg*, are also on the ceiling of the south aisle of St. Nicholas' church.

In 1525 the castle of Yarmouth was conveyed by Sir Reynald Rous\* and others to William Burroughs† and John Lavile for the town's‡ use; and they, in 1550, conveyed it to the corporation, who were desirous of converting it into a gaol and proposed holding their courts there. To this end they rebuilt the east wall and strengthened the building with six "dormants" or large beams, that it might "come to no further ruin;" and caused a "fair gate" to be made into the castle yard. In 1554 the castle was again ordered to be repaired and a fire beacon to be put up; but probably it was altogether in too ruinous a state to be converted to the purposes intended. In 1562 further repairs were ordered; and in 1596, "the times being dangerous," the beacons on the castle were ordered to be "made ready."

Notwithstanding all this outlay, Manship tells us that in his time the castle "yielded to time," and was "running to ruin." In 1620 the top of the castle was taken down, and the materials were employed in enclosing the east mount, where some of the stones may still be seen; and in the year following what remained of the castle was pulled down. The castle yard was afterwards used by the corporation for the stowage of droits of admiralty until 1808, when they sold it to Thomas

\* He was of the same family as Sir Anthony Rous, who purchased Henham in 1545; and who was the immediate ancestor of the present Earl of Stradbroke.

† This sur-name implied that the person to whom it was given belonged to the borough or burgh. In 1319, John de Burgh was one of the coroners appointed by the corporation. Edmund de Burgh, who was "Burgess for Parliament" in 1355, according to Swinden (but his name does not appear in the list), complained to the King that two men of Gorleston had carried away his goods and chattels. In 1526 William Burroughs served the office of bailiff, and interested himself as we have seen in the preservation of the castle for the use of the town. He again served the same office in 1535, being the year in which monasteries were suppressed; and again in 1544. John Burgh was one of the "four merchants" who, in 1541, went into the parish church in the time of divine service, and at the elevation of the host spoke "heretical words" and swore "by all the members of Christ," conducting themselves in a tumultuous manner "to the great disturbance of the congregation." They were fined; but the reformation was not far off. William Norton Burroughs was mayor of Yarmouth in 1846.

‡ He served the office of bailiff in 1512; and again in 1521 with John Doubleday, who had obtained a pardon from King Henry VIII. in 1509, but for what offence does not appear, as the document which was with the town muniments is now lost.

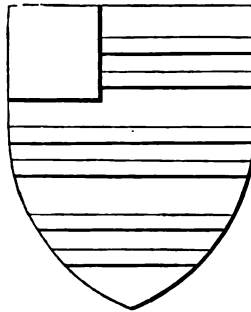
Penrice, Esq., who built coachhouses and stables thereon, now converted into a liquor shop known as the Penrice Arms.\*

On the east side of South Middlegate street,† adjoining Thorpe's row, there resided in the fourteenth century an influential family named Thorpe. They bore for their arms chequy *or* and *gu*, on a fesse *sa*, three martlets *arg*.

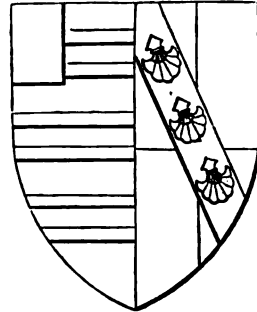
Bartholomew de Thorpe, a merchant and shipowner, filled the office of bailiff in 1324, and again many times during the next twenty years. In 1342 he was one of those who were indicted and fined for having attacked the men of the cinque ports, or as the writ expresses it "for sundry trespasses and other misdeeds by them upon the sea coast enormously perpetrated." In 1337, in consequence of some disputes with the men of Gorleston, two of the latter were lodged in gaol, and a misunderstanding arose between the crown and the Yarmouth bailiffs respecting their prosecution. In consequence of the "grievous and notorious dissensions" between Yarmouth and Gorleston, a writ was served on Thorpe and his brethren to remove the cause into the court of King's Bench, and the bailiffs were required to send up the proceedings. They replied that the same were in the custody of the prior of St. Nicholas' church, who had been appointed to keep them "under an impartial hand." The court was dissatisfied; and suspecting the bailiffs to be in collusion with the prior, sent a writ to the coroners, who were then ministerial as well as judicial officers, requiring them to make the return. Robert Ashman, one of the coroners, replied that he could not do so, as Henry de Tatersete, clerk, the other coroner was

\* In front of this building, next row No. 101, there used to be a piece of carved stone which looked like the inverted capital of a pillar, which may once have belonged to the castle. It is now within the gate.

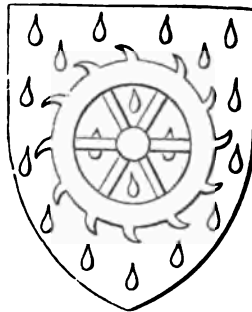
† Much confusion has been caused by the streets subsequently called *George* street, *Charlotte* street, *Howard* street, and *Gaol* street, having been all anciently called *Middle* street or *Middlegate* street. Some distinction had become necessary, and the names *George*, *Charlotte*, and *Howard*, were suggested by Ives, the antiquary; but it certainly was no improvement to substitute *Gaol* street for *Middlegate* street, and while these pages were in the press the town council ordered the old name to be restored.



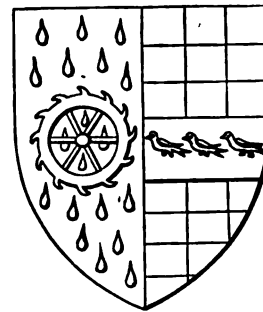
BEKETON.



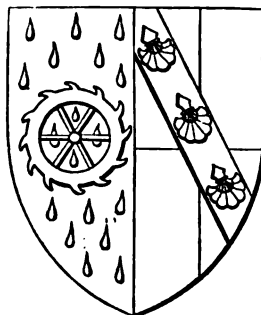
BEKETON IMP. PASTOLFE.



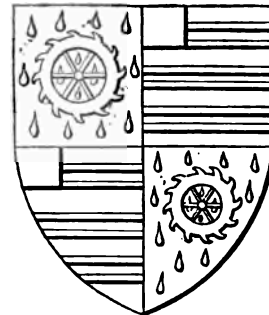
DE BOYS.



DE BOYS IMP. THORPE.



DE BOYS AND PASTOLFE.



DE BOYS QUART. BEKETON.

dead.\* Thereupon another writ in the King's name was sent to the bailiffs, insisting that the proceedings had been delivered to them by Sir Edmund Bacon, knt., in the presence of Sir Henry Bacon, knt., and other creditable persons, and were then in their hands and not in the possession of the prior, and threatening that if the bailiffs disobeyed this writ they should be amerced. With the determination, or obstinacy, characteristic of Yarmouth men, Thorpe and his brethren coolly replied that they could not comply, the "obligations" being as they had said before, in the hands of the prior. A writ of *venire facias* was then issued, which the bailiffs met by alleging that William de Moneele, one of their number, was dead; but the court hearing that he was alive and to be found in the town, ordered another writ to issue calling upon the bailiffs to answer "for their insufficient return;" and this was followed up by a writ of *distringas*, under which the goods of Bartholomew de Thorpe, Anselm de Fordele, and Henry Randolf, were seized; William de Moneele, the other bailiff, being probably then really dead. John de Thorpe was bailiff in 1353 and 1358.

In 1375, John Griggs, a servant of Thomas de Thorpe, was impeached before Sir William, dean of Yarmouth, convicted and canonically punished. The dean, however, "extorted" more than his due from the culprit, for which he was taken to task by the Yarmouth magistrates, who fined the dean 13s. 4d. Thomas de Thorpe filled the office of bailiff in 1460, after which we hear no more of the name. In 1324, Rosa and Ada, daughters and co-heirs of John, son of John de Thorpe, conveyed a messuage in Middlegate street, to Hamo de Beketon or Buckton, who bore *sa*, three bars, gemels, and a canton *arg*.

In 1308, Hugh de Beketon, a merchant of Yarmouth, complained to the King in council, that his goods had been piratically seized in the ports of Normandy. Richard Beketon represented the town in Parliament in 1341 and 1350, and was many times bailiff. William Beketon was returned to Parliament in 1347. Simon Beketon was alderman of the guild of St. Mary ultra Pontem in 1403. John Beketon was returned to Parliament in 1386 and 1400, and was five times bailiff, serving for the last time in 1403; and it is probable that he filled that

\* There were two coroners until the passing of the Municipal Corporation Act.

office when the ceiling of the south aisle of St. Nicholas' church was altered, which accounts for his arms appearing on five separate shields. They impale the arms of Fastolfe, and are quartered with those of De Boys.

Nothing is known of the family who bore the arms attributed to De Boys, but they must have been of considerable local importance, for there are on the ceiling of the south aisle five shields bearing their arms, impaling Thorpe and Fastolfe, and quartering Beketon.

William de la Mawe, or atte Mawe, had property in Middlegate street. He was bailiff in 1268; and others of the name and family appear on the rolls as having frequently served the same office during a period extending over a century. The name is now corrupted to Atmore. A house in Middlegate street was the property of Stephen de Stalham, a burgess of Yarmouth, who by his will made in 1362, after directing his body to be buried in St. Nicholas' church, and bequeathing "to the high altar, for his tenths forgotton, twenty marks," and "to the repair of the said church five marks," and giving legacies to all the monastic establishments in the town, devised the same "to Agathy his wife, for the term of her life," and after her decease to a then expectant son or daughter yet unborn.

As there were many families settled in Yarmouth which took their names from the places whence they came, so there were families established elsewhere which derived their surname from Yarmouth.

Adam de Gernemuth was a justice itinerant in 1174, and was employed in settling assizes or tallages upon the King's demesnes in Norfolk and Suffolk. William de Jernemuth was manucaptor for Henry Rose, burgess in parliament for Yarmouth in 1305; and in 1309, John de Jernemuth performed the same office for William Amerose de Ormesbye. In 1297, John de Jernemuth was manucaptor for William Roscelyn, knight of the shire for Norfolk. Adam de Jernemuth was knight of the shire for Rutland in 1297, as was Walter de Jernemuth in 1321 and 1322. He was a retainer of Bernardus de Bues, and therefore not summoned to perform military service in person against the Scots. Hugo de Jernemue was returned for Southwark in 1298 and 1307; and John de Gernenewe, in 1301, for Rochester. Galfridus de

Jernemeue was one of the four warders specially appointed to keep the keys of Newgate during the disturbances in 1311.\*



John Yarmouth had a son, Humphrey, who resided at Blundeston; and Humphrey, his son, married Anne, daughter of John Bacon, and resided at Henstead. They bore *az*, a chev. *sa* between three bears paws *sa*.† They had large possessions in Blundeston and the adjoining parishes, most of which Humphrey Yarmouth conveyed in 1570 to the Sydners.

John de Gernemuth, in 1287, had free warren at Norton and Loddon.

John de Sparham, married Beatrice, daughter and heir of William de Yarmouth, and their granddaughter and eventual co-heir married John de Folcard, who bore *sa*, a chev. between three covered cups *arg*. The Blakeney of Norfolk, who bore *sa*, a chev. *erm* between three leopards faces, quartered the above arms of Yarmouth.

As trade and commerce increased a Quay was formed on the east bank of the river, south of the *Forelands*, and the ground between it and Middlegate street becoming available for business purposes, portions were from time to time enclosed for houses and gardens, and ultimately a range of houses was erected fronting the haven, and thus the SOUTH QUAY was formed. In the 15th and 16th centuries many of the most wealthy among the burgesses resided in this locality, and in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, when the town enjoyed great prosperity in consequence of the success which had attended the construction of the present harbour's mouth, many large and sumptuous houses were erected, some of which (more or less mutilated) remain to this day. In some instances the owners possessed the whole of the ground lying between the South quay and Middlegate street; and by the tenure of their holding they were compelled to maintain the quay and quay-head opposite their respective houses;‡ and to keep the pavement and gutters in good order.

\* See *Parliamentary Writs*.

† Add M.S.S., B.M. 5524.

‡ The quay-head is now maintained by the Haven Commissioners, and it is well for the adjacent owners that it is so, for, in 1869, sixty feet, opposite the Public Library, fell in; the quay having become undermined from the effects of dredging and the decay of the wooden piles.



In the same reign, Alexander de Beverley purchased a piece of ground with a capital messuage thereon, extending from row to row, north and south, and abutting upon Middlegate towards the east, and the port of Yarmouth west.\*

About the same time, William de Oxney purchased a piece of land between that of Robert de Aylsham north, ground of John de Fordel south and east, and the port west, "with such portion towards the said port as other neighbours there took." (*"Cum tanta portione versus dictum portum sicut alii convicini ibidem capunt seu capere possunt."*) He was an importer of wine; and in 1339 an action was brought against him for not shipping a cargo at Bordeaux on board a vessel belonging to Bartholomew de Thorpe, at a freight of 27s. 6d. per ton. He pleaded that there was no such agreement; but the jury decided differently, although it was not "registered on paper," or affirmed "per argentum Dei;"† and gave £18 damages. He was bailiff in 1350, a member of the guild of St. George, and had a private chapel in St. Nicholas' church. He died in 1355, and by his will gave to the high altar of the same church 40s. for his "tenths forgotten." He also gave legacies to all the orders of friars within the town, to St. Mary's hospital, to the houses of lepers, and to the parish chaplains and clerks. William Oxney, his son, was bailiff in 1376, 1389, 1408, and 1426, in which latter year the number of bailiffs was reduced to two, he being the first bailiff under this reform.

\* Alexander de Beverley was one of the bailiffs of Yarmouth in 1351 and 1358, and the family appears to have had great influence at this early period. John de Beverley was one of those who, in 1342, were fined 1000 marks for their outrages on the men of the cinque ports. Margaret, his wife, in 1369, gave an annual rent of 30s. 6d. "towards the aid and support of eight candles burning in the porch in the chancel of St. Thomas of Canterbury, within St. Nicholas' church of Yarmouth." It appears that, in 1304, the corporation borrowed 60 marks sterling of Master Peter de Paris, apothecary to Margaret, second wife of Edward I.; and to secure the repayment they placed in the hands of John de Beverley a box sealed with the common seal of the town, which, "being an equal hand and common friend," he was to keep until the Octave of St. Martin, when if the money were paid he was to return it to the corporation; but if not, to deliver it to the said Master Peter, on the attorney for the latter appearing before the Lord Mayor of London, and binding himself to indemnify the stake holder. The contents of the box are not stated. Riley's *London*.

† God's penny or earnest money. The custom of giving a shilling "to bind the bargain" yet lingers.

John de Fordele was bailiff of Yarmouth in 1289, 1291, 1293, and 1298; others of this family held the same office, represented the town in parliament, and were possessed of considerable property. Anselm de Fordele, "burgess of the town of Great Yarmouth," died of the plague in 1349. By his will, in which he says he was "willing to be prepared for a sudden change," he desired "to be buried in St. Mary's chancel of St. Nicholas' church, by the grave of Margaret his wife." He gave to the high altar "for his excesses" 13s. 4d., and legacies to the chaplains, deacons, parish clerks, the three orders of friars, St. Mary's hospital, and the house of lepers. He also directed five quarters of corn to be distributed for his soul on the day of his burial, five quarters on the seventh day, and five quarters on the thirtieth day; he gave all his quit rents to the support of a chaplain to pray for his soul and the soul of Margaret his wife, with many other bequests. The name is now extinct.

Godfrey Pilgrim had a house on the quay, which "extended from the port of Yarmouth to Middlegate." Much of the ground enclosed between the street and the quay, was at that time occupied as gardens. In 1587, John Bartilmewes, merchant, purchased of John Harbottle,\* bailiff in 1581, "a certain piece of land with a garden," between a common lane south, a garden of Augustine Peers north, a garden east, and the port west, which Harbottle's father had purchased of Nicholas Fenne, merchant, and Aberia his wife.†

Oliver Wyth, who was bailiff in 1268, and held a lease of the lastage of Yarmouth in 1284, had a house on the quay. John Wyth was bailiff in 1284, and again in 1288. Thomas Wyth of Yarmouth held lands at Heckingham in Norfolk; and Edmund Wyth was bailiff in 1394, and again in 1409.‡ Sir Jeffery Wyth, son of Oliver, who died in 1331, gave all his rents in the town of Yarmouth, and also his

\* A family of this name in Suffolk bore *az.* three icicles bendways *or.* within a bordure eng. *erm.*; and for a crest a demi falcon *or.* with wings expanded, barry wavy of six *arg.* and *az.* The name is extinct in Yarmouth.

† In the middle ages, at Yarmouth, the wife was very usually joined with the husband in the purchase of houses and lands. What are now considered fine names were not then uncommon; such as Beatrice, Cecilia, Dionisia, Christiana, Helena, Benedicta, Juliana, Maud, Ada, Isabel, &c.

‡ Swinden, p. 40. Blomefield viii. p. 22.

lastage called coket, to his wife Isabel. Jeffery Wyth, in 1302, killed a man in a fish-house, for which he obtained letters of pardon from the king, and expiated his offence by becoming a benefactor to the priory.\*

The name of FENN, originally atte Fenn, designating a person who lived at or near a fen or marsh, has been of long continuance in Yarmouth, and also in the counties of Norfolk and Cambridge. Peter atte Fen was burgess to parliament for the town in 1396 and 1400. He had three sons. 1. Hugh atte Fenn, who was a feoffee of Carlton Manor. 2. Robert atte Fenn, a merchant. 3. John atte Fenn, who died in 1419, and by his will gave legacies for repairing Worstead and Felmingham churches. William, his son, married Agnes, daughter of Robert Topps, alderman of Norwich,† and took up his residence in that city, where he died in 1439. He held lands at Worstead called *Fenn's place*. Hugh atte Fen was one of the twenty-four "wise men" named in the letters patent of Henry III., to carry into effect the articles for the better government of the town. In 1402, a large ship called the *Michael*, belonging to Hugh atte Fen, was seized by the "men of Postok," off Plymouth; and this formed one of the cases cited by Henry IV. in his treaty with the Hanse towns. Thomas Fenn, son of Hugh atte Fenn, was fined 3s. 4d. in 1455, because he let the gallows fall down when he was bailiff. Hugh atte Fenn, son of the former burgess of that name, was returned to Parliament in 1433. At Herringby near Yarmouth Hugh atte Fenn, in 1475, founded a college and hospital called God's poor almshouse, for a master, three priests, eight poor folks, and two servants; the large possessions of which college (except the site granted to Sir Thomas Clere) were bestowed by Henry VIII. upon Sir William Woodhouse of Waxham. Hugh atte Fenn bequeathed numerous legacies, including sums of money to St. Mary's hospital, for the repair of the bridge, to the church clerk, to the charnel house, and to the house of lepers, all at Great Yarmouth. He enumerated the persons for whom prayers were to be had and continued for ever; and he desired to

\* Wyth of Norfolk bore *az.* three griffens pass. in pale *or.*

† He had an estate at Great Melton in Norfolk, and died in 1467. In 1487, his son, Robert Topps, gave the estate to Sir Gregory Lovell, knt., the son of his sister Anne. Topps of Thrigby bore *arg.* and *vert.* on two bars *sa.* three bezants.

be buried in Herringby church, and gave one hundred marks to rebuild the roof.\* Nicholas Fen was bailiff in 1549, and used the annexed device for his merchant's mark. On the death of Edward VI., when the corporation were in doubt as to proclaiming "the Lady Jane," they deputed William Fenn, one of their body, "to ride immediately to Norwich," and "take counsel as to what they should do," the wary corporation agreeing to wait until his return before declaring themselves. Edward Fenn was sub-steward in 1558. Samuel Fenn was mayor in 1687, and as such presented an address to James II., on the subject of the Test Act. He had been previously known to the king, having been one of those who in 1681 went off to his Majesty (when Duke of York) to invite him to land and dine with the mayor, which the duke did. In more modern times, a family of this name has supplied members to the corporation, the town council, and the bench.

John Peers was chairman of a committee of twelve burgesses to whom was intrusted, in 1491, the very important task of reforming the old ordinances, and framing others for the good government and politic rule of the borough. These ordinances had the assent of Sir James Hobart, the attorney-general, and many remained in force until the passing of the Municipal Corporation Act in 1835. In 1462 he was elected bailiff, and during his year of office, John Pedle, for coining and uttering eighteen groats, made of copper and lead, as lawful money, was tried, condemned, and hanged. Peers was again bailiff in 1467 and 1472. In 1477 John Cofeld, one of the bailiffs, died during his term of office, and Peers was elected to supply his place, and in 1480 he once more filled that office. Robert Peers, probably his son, was bailiff in 1528. Augustine Peers was bailiff in 1564, 1576, and 1588; after which the name is seen no more.

William de Goseford was bailiff in 1294, and again in 1306. John de Goseford in 1309. In 1322 William de Redham settled on Christian, the wife of William de Goseford of Yarmouth, certain lands at Stokesby.†

\* Blomefield, xi. 224. The Fenns of Norfolk bore *arg.* on a fesse *az.* three escallops of the first within a bordure *eng.* of the second.

† Blomefield ii. p. 250. Redham bore *gu.* a chev. *eng.* betw. three reed sheaves *or.*

Alan de Goseford was captain of the *Elen* in the Yarmouth squadron which accompanied Edward III. in his expedition to Brittany; William de Goseford was owner of the *Nicholas* in the same fleet; and in 1481 William de Goseford was owner of the *Applecogge*.

William de Topcroft, burgess of Yarmouth, purchased in 1367 of Sir Richard de Illey one third of the manor of Holm hall in Filby; and about the same time Aliamore de Burghwood conveyed another third to Ellen Colyn of Yarmouth.\*

Thomas Titelowe, a burgess of Yarmouth, who had a house on the quay, held lands at Tunstal, *temp.* Henry VI.

In the 16th century there resided here a family named Bohun, but whether they were a branch of the ancient Suffolk house of that name cannot be asserted. Richard Bohun was one of the churchwardens *temp.* Edward VI., and by him was sold "so moche church plate as extended to the sum and value of one hundreth marks," which money was spent on the haven; but he was enjoined not to sell "any more plate, jewells, ornaments, or bells," the like of which could never be replaced. Edmund Bohun, a voluminous political and miscellaneous writer of the 17th century, was the son of Baxter Bohun, who with his ancestors had been lords of the manor of Westhall from the 25th of Henry VIII.† His diary has been published by Mr. S. Wilton Rix of Beccles, with a pedigree.

\* Blomefield, xi. 218. Topcroft is a Norfolk parish.

† The Westhall estate remained in the possession of the Bohun family until purchased in 1834 by the late Major Peter Forster of Ditchingham, who died in 1846. He was the son of the Rev. Peter Forster by Elizabeth his wife, elder daughter and co-heir of Samuel Howard, Esq., of Brook hall who was maternally descended from the ancient family of Tindal. The arms of Tindal were *arg.* a fess indented, in chief three crescents *or.* They appeared on an ancient canvas, containing all the matches of the Blennerhasset family, which surrounded two rooms at Caister occupied by Mrs. Hills, whose sister married John Blennerhasset, who died in 1704, and was the last of that branch; but in Blomefield's time, by hanging against damp walls, many of the coats had then become obliterated. Bohun of Suffolk bore *az.* a bend *arg.* betw. two cottizes and six lions ramp. *or.* The above family of Forster were originally from Northumberland, and bore *arg.* a chev. *vert.* betw. three bugle horns *sa.* stringed *gu.* and for a crest, a buck trippant *ppr.*



One of the most numerous and influential families in Yarmouth at an early period was that of ELLIS. This name, dating from Domesday Book, is derived, as some say, from *Elias*, but by others from the French family *Alis*, who took their name from a place called *Alis* or *Alisay* near *Pont de l'Arche*. Others think it a nickname—*Eel-is*—and one branch of the family bore for their arms *arg.* three *eels* naiant, in pale *sa.*

Robert Ellis (or Elys) was one of the burgesses to Parliament in 1328; and in 1340 he and John Ellis were summoned to attend the king, "*de essendo eorum concilio, super arduis et urgentissimis negotiis.*" He died in the same year. William of Worcester styles him "*Amator singularis hujus urbis;*" and John Ellis, who died in 1361, he styles "*Vir etate et glacia prole et divitiis honorabilior.*" In 1378 William Ellis, his son, attended a Parliament held at Gloucester; and in the next year, one at Westminster. This John Ellis held the lordships of Ilketshall and Redersham, which in 1357 were sold by William Ellis, his son, to Sir Walter de Norwich; and Jeffery and Richard, his brothers, joined for the purpose of releasing their rights. John Ellis was returned to Parliament in 1389. He had an estate at Billockby, and presented Richard de Thirkely to the church there in 1392. Robert Ellys, son of Jeffery Ellys of Yarmouth, held lands at Herringby, Stokesby, and Thrigby.\*



Bartholomew Ellis, bailiff in 1391, used the annexed figure as his merchant's mark. To a deed of Bartholomew Elys of Yarmouth, dated 17 Rich. II., preserved in the Muniment room at Stow Bardolph, a very beautiful seal is attached, bearing a chev. betw. two cinfoils in chief with an anchor at base. Thomas Elys, Mayor of Norwich, who died in 1487, bore *sa.* on a chev. *arg.* three roses *gu.* betw. three women's heads erased *arg.* crossed *or.*† In 1374 William Ellis, son of John, held the manor of Soham hall in Bereford. Robert Ellis was returned to Parliament for Yarmouth in 1414, 1419, 1422, and 1427; and Richard Ellis, in 1421.

\* Blomefield, xi. p. 223.

† William, his son, was a baron of the exchequer in 1535.

Thomas Pond, who was bailiff in 1462 and 1472, dwelt in a house on the South quay, between "a certain common lane," north, and the house of John Russe, south. He had another house there, lying between a messuage of John Wolstan, late of Geoffery Fordele, and then of William Bedyngham, and a messuage called "Ramseys," then of William Albon, north and east, and a row called *Pater Noster Row*, south.\* Pond died in 1490, leaving considerable property. His will is extremely curious. He desired to be buried in the chancel of St. Nicholas' church; and he gave to the high altar, for his "tythes forgotten or unpaid," xxviii. viii*d.*; to the repairs of the church, xli*s.*; to the repair of the church of the Blessed Mary of West Yarmouth, vi*s.* viii*d.*; to the house of Friars Minors, x*s.*; to the house of Friars Carmelites, vi*s.* viii*d.*; to the house of Friars Preachers, vi*s.*; to the house of Friars Austin, in Gorleston, iv*s.* He desired to have a "secular priest" to celebrate in the church of St. Nicholas for his soul, and the souls of his parents and benefactors, for the space of three years. He gave to Christopher Moy and William Heron, wardens of the church, and their successors for ever, "five renters" on the east side of Middlegate street, lying between two common lanes, north and south,

\* So called because in it lived those who made and strung beads for rosaries and the like. An old distich says:—

**Rob. Hill, and Daby.**  
**Repeat your Pater Noster and your Ave;**  
**And if you wish for better speed,**  
**Go further on, and say your Creed,**  
**Live well, pray oft, and do no ill,**  
**And you will be in safety still.**

These rosaries were sometimes so much esteemed as to be made the subject of special bequests. Thus, in 1434, Robert Cupper, who had been bailiff in 1419, gave by will his "beads of hawmber marked for twelve" to William Paston; and to John Havysland, prior of Yarmouth, his "beads of hawmber marked for ten." Amber is frequently found on Yarmouth beach, but abounds more to the north at Winterton and Bacton. It is a resin derived from an extinct species of pine, which long embedded has acquired peculiar properties. In its diaphanous parts may sometimes be observed insects of a species now extinct. Mr. Burwood, lapidary, had a large collection of amber found on Yarmouth beach or in the immediate neighbourhood; and in one specimen a small but perfect fish might distinctly be seen.

and a garden of William Buxton, east, for the purpose of keeping a light in the lamp in the church of St. Nicholas, and providing wax for the candelabra before the sacrament. He desired that if any of his children should die under age, the estates devised to them should be disposed of "for his soul and their souls." He gave to his wife, forty marks; and to each of his children, ten marks, and provided that if any should die under age, eight marks should "be disposed of for the stipend of a priest celebrating for one entire year." He gave "to the repair of the great bridge of Yarmouth," *vis. viii*d**. He appointed William Patynson and Thomas Ufford, executors, and John Peers, supervisor; directing them to dispose of his estate "as seemed best to them, for the pleasure of God and the profit of his soul, as they would answer before the Highest Judge." This will was proved "before the dean of the deanery of the town of Great Yarmouth," as the custom then was, and entered upon the borough roll, where it still remains to be seen *in extenso*. The name is *extinct*.

John Russe had, as we have seen, a residence on the South quay, which he purchased of Thomas Howys, clerk, the previous owner being Robert Peerson. He was a man of importance in his day. In 1466 he served the office of bailiff with William Baldock;\* and in the following year he was returned to Parliament with John Timperley.† Russe, no doubt, had secured to himself the influence of the Paston family, who

\* Probably of the same family was Sir Robert Baldock, made recorder at the restoration, who bore chequy *or.* and *gu.* on a fesse *az.* three escallops *arg.*

† Thomas Timperley, with whom Russe sat in Parliament, was descended from an ancient Cheshire family, a branch of whom settled in Suffolk *temp.* Henry VI. He married Audrey, daughter of Sir Nicholas Hare. Their grandson, Thomas Timperley, was knighted by Queen Elizabeth. In 1721, the last of the race dissipated the family estates and retired to a monastery abroad, where he died. This family bore quarterly *gu.* and *arg.* in the first quarter *az.* an escallop of the second. They also held lands at Colkirk in Norfolk. A mural monument in the church there, to the memory of William Timperley who died in 1660, has this inscription:—

"Reader,

"However young and strong,—be not in breath

"Too confident,—since by untimely death

"(A pistol breaking in his hand) lies here

"A Timperley ———."



at this early period interested themselves greatly in elections. We find by the Paston letters that, in 1462, Russe had applied to Sir John Paston of Caister castle, to procure him a place in the Customs, promising to repay him all expenses, and coolly offering, if appointed and so long as he held office, to give Paston's son "five marks yearly towards a hackney." He was re-elected in 1472; and in 1475 he served the office of bailiff. In that year "a certeyn fishe cal'd a whall," came to the ground between the stone cross and Grubb's haven, which by his order was cut to pieces and brought in "to the use of the said towne of Yermouth." In 1485 he was again bailiff. In 1491 he was one of those appointed to revise the ordinances "ordeynyd and provided for the good governance and polytyk reule of the towne of Grett Yermouth."

William Aldrich was first bailiff in 1468. His grandson, Alderman Thomas Aldrich of Norwich, who "lyeth buried in our Lady's chapel in St. Michael's church at ye plee," had sixteen children. He was the ancestor of the Adrichs of Norwich, and Mangreen in Norfolk. They bore *or. a fesse vert. charged with a bull passant arg.*

John Allman, who was bailiff in 1473, possessed considerable property in Hopton, Corton, Brotherton, and Yarmouth, which, by his will made in 1477, apparently by William Spyke, prior of Yarmouth, he gave to Margaret his wife for life, and then to their children.

In 1584 Christopher Drewe conveyed a dwelling-house on the quay to John Palmer, between land of William Byshoppe, sometime of William Grice, north, and land of William Rede of Beccles, merchant, south.\*

On the wall are sculptured a winged hour-glass, a pearl, and an eye with wings, beneath which are these verses:—

*"Lo, Time!—Pearl!—Eye!—a rebus which in thee,*

*"Speaks what I whilom was—a Timperley.*

*"Winged Time is flown, so is the world to me*

*"A glittering Pearl, whose gloss is vanity.*

*"But th' Eye of hope, is of a nobler flight,*

*"To reach beyond thee (Death), enjoy his sight*

*"Who conquer'd thee, hence springs my hope, that I*

*"Shall rise the same, and more—a Timperley.*

\* A family of this name resided in the neighbourhood of Beccles for many centuries. William Rede, bishop of Chichester, had an estate at Ellough in 1348;

William Bishop was bailiff in 1514, 1520, 1527, 1539, and 1548. In the latter year he subscribed £40, a considerable sum at that time, towards the repair of the haven. Several members of the same family filled the office of bailiff in the 16th century. Margaret, his daughter, married Nicholas Kene, bailiff in 1564, son of Miles Kene of Rollesby, bailiff in 1534, by Cicely his wife, daughter of Henry Ilbred of Yarmouth. Kene bore *arg.* a talbot statant *sa.* eared and charged on the shoulder with a trefoil *or.* on a chief indented *az.* three crosses patonee *or.* Richard Bishop, who was bailiff in 1512 and 1519, left two daughters and co-heirs, the eldest of whom, Cicely, married Thomas Aldriche, and by him had a daughter, Rose, who married Henry Marsham, Esq., who in 1544 purchased the manor and advowson of Stratton Strawless, at which place the Marsham family have ever since resided. The arms of Marsham are *arg.* crusily fitchée *sa.* a lion pass. *gu.* betw. two bendlets *az.* each charged with three crosslets *or.*; and for a crest a lion's head erased *gu.* charged with three crosslets fitchée *or.* Robert Bishop of Yarmouth was admitted to Corpus Christi college, Cambridge, in 1557, and became a fellow of that society in 1560. He took the degree of L.L.D. in 1570, and two years later was appointed a commissioner for the examination of papists in Norfolk. In 1577 he became commissary of the Bishop of Norwich, within the archdeaconry of Norfolk. He was

and of this family was Sir Peter Rede, who was knighted by Charles V. at the winning of Tunis in 1538, and who among other additions to his armorial bearings was allowed "a sword in pale, with point downwards sticking into a Moor's head." William, his brother, who is described as a citizen and merchant of London, obtained a grant of the manor and advowson of Beccles in 1539, on the dissolution of the monastery of Bury St. Edmund's, to which they had belonged. He also had property at Beccles which is now held by the corporation of that town. He died in 1552, leaving a widow who married Sir Thomas Gresham, founder of the Royal Exchange.



By her first husband she left a son, Sir William Rede, knt. (who married Gertrude daughter of Erasmus Paston, Esq.), and his son and heir, Sir Thomas Rede, knt., married Mildredd, second daughter of Thomas Cecil, Lord Burghley. This family of Rede bore *az.* on a bend wavy *or.* three cornish cloughs *ppr.* within a bordure eng. *arg.* charged with torteaux and pallets alternately *az.* and for a crest betw. two branches of laurel *ppr.* a stag's head, erased *sa.* attired and gorged with a collar gemel *or.* on the neck three bezants in pale.

constituted steward of the Admiralty court of Great Yarmouth in 1585, and held office till his death in 1590. He was buried at St. Martin at the Plain, Norwich. Among other works he wrote "*A Chronicle of the Kingdom of the East Angles*."\*

A family named GRICE, or Le Grys, had a house on the South quay; and were for many years possessed of considerable local influence. They descended from Sir Robert le Grice of Langley in Norfolk, who was equerry to Richard I. In 1542 Gilbert Grice was chosen prime bailiff. † In 1549 the insurgents under Kett, having ransacked Norwich and the country around, a party of them came to Yarmouth, where they surprised the two bailiffs and carried them to the rebel camp at Mousehold; whence they escaped and fortified the town. They received the thanks of the Lord Protector Somerset and the lords of the council, for their diligence in having "very honestly kept the town against the rebels." † The insurgents "thinking to overrule Yarmouth," send out a hundred men from their camp, "for the maintenance of the king's town against our

\* *Athenæ Cantabrigienses* ii. p. 79. Tanner lxx. f. 77.

† During his year of office the corporation departed from their usual custom of sending members of their own body to Parliament, and elected Sir Humphrey Wingfield of Letheringham in Suffolk, to represent them. Sir Robert Wingfield, comptroller of the household to Edward VI. was a man of great interest at court, and died in 1480, leaving large estates at Lound, Blundeston, Corton, and elsewhere. A few years since, the Rev. George Wingfield of Tickencote rectory, Rutlandshire, found in the shop of a dealer in old metal, a brass with the following inscription:—

"At Floddensfeld dñ brabely fight and dye

"Of Wingfeldes sonnes, ye famed Sir Anthoupe;

"But dethe hee counted wickle gain sith hee,

"Ober ye Scot dñ gain ye victorie.

This family derived their name from Wingfield in Suffolk, where they had a castle the remains of which are still standing. They were so prolific in men "wise in council, and brave in war," that in the reign of Henry VIII., there were eight knights, all brothers, two of whom wore the garter. Syllas Neville, writing in 1772, says "saw four alabaster groups in bas-relief found lately at Wingfield castle—"the miracle of the loaves, the treachery of Judas, the body of Jesus in the arms of "his mother, &c., of rude sculpture, but curious for their antiquity."

‡ This letter is signed among other Lords of the Privy Council, by Sir Anthony Wingfield, who was one of the executors of the will of Henry VIII. The letter is printed by Swinden, p. 935.

enemies." Entrance was denied to them, which so incensed the rebels that they sought to take the town by stratagem ; and the situation being critical, Gilbert Grice and two other principal burgesses were sent to London, where they had a personal audience of the king, or, as His Majesty himself expressed it, they had granted to them " the fruition of his royal presence ;" and on their return they received a letter from the lords of the council announcing the king's intention of sending down " a main force," to aid and comfort his good subjects on the one hand, and " contrariwise to extend the rigour and extremity of the sword to those unkind and unnatural men " who were in arms against him. Grice purchased the manor of Brockdish Earls from the Duke of Norfolk, but dying before the sale was completed, it was conveyed to his nephew, Charles le Grys, who built the house called *The Place* in 1567, and displayed his arms and quarterings in the windows ; and from him there are numerous descendants settled in Norfolk.\* John Grice commanded a sloop of war called the *Greyhound*, and on the death of Henry VIII. he, with John Hughes, comptroller of the customs, hastened to Framlingham and " submitted themselves " to the Lady Mary, and were sworn in to her service ; and all the ordnance and shot that could be spared from the *Greyhound* were sent from Yarmouth to the queen.

At this time (1553) there had been driven into Yarmouth harbour six ships of war, sent down by the lords of the council who had proclaimed Lady Jane Grey as Queen of England, for the purpose of intercepting the Lady Mary, who being then at Kenninghall would, it was supposed, attempt to leave the kingdom. If great names could have prevailed, the Duke of Suffolk's daughter had no lack of them. Dudley, Duke of Northumberland, who had inflicted such a fearful chastisement upon the Norfolk insurgents under Kett, was at the head of the army ; Clinton was Lord Admiral. They were supported by a host of nobles ; but throughout the nation there was a strong feeling among the people, that Mary, notwithstanding her adherence to the Roman catholic faith, was " the rightful heir." While Dudley

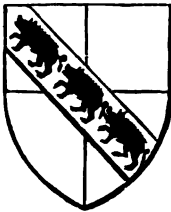
\* William, the eldest son and heir of Charles de Grys, married Alice, daughter of Robert Eyre, Esq., of Yarmouth, and their son sold the Brockdish estate. Blomefield, vol. 5. p. 335.

pushed on to Cambridge at the head of his army, Mary collected her forces at Framlingham. "Master Jerningham," who was "raysing power on Queen Mary's behalf," came to Yarmouth to see what could be done with the sailors. The captains on his approach having retired to their vessels, Jerningham followed them on board and addressed the men. The sailors asked him "what he would have, and whether he would have their captains or no." "Yea," quoth he; whereupon the sailors exclaimed "ye shall have them, or else we will throw them to the bottom of the sea." The captains seeing the temper of their crews, and that they would not be restrained, expressed their willingness to serve Queen Mary; and thereupon landed their fighting men with some of their guns. This news when it reached Framlingham rendered Mary and her company "wonderfully joyous;" but it had a contrary effect in the camp of the Duke of Northumberland, where "each man began to pluck in his horns," and to the duke himself it was "a great hartsore."\*

William le Grice, who informs us that he was "born and bred" in Yarmouth, represented the town in the first Parliament called by Queen Elizabeth, and was returned at the four following elections. When in 1578 it was expected that Queen Elizabeth would visit the town, a messenger was sent to Mr. Grice, then in London attending his Parliamentary duties, instructing him to procure a silver cup in the form of a ship, to be presented to Her Majesty, and also to obtain two lasts of gunpowder, an ensign and other flags. In 1567 he attended upon Lord Burleigh with a petition to the privy council, praying for some relief in consequence of the heavy expenses of the haven, whereupon "my lords" were pleased "to move the city of London to lend the town of Yarmouth £1,000 without interest, to be repaid by £200 a year," which (strange as it seems to us in these days) the city did, and the loan was honorably repaid. In 1576 he was one of the commissioners who made the award which settled the disputes between the town and the cinque ports. In 1588 he offered himself for re-election, but a misunderstanding having arisen respecting the appointment of Jeffery Whitney as sub-steward, on the recommendation of the Earl of Leicester,

\* Froude's *History*. Hepworth Dixon's *Tower of London*.

as to which he seems to have been accused of acting without consulting the leading members of the corporation, who were in fact the electors, and failing to clear himself in a long and foggy letter, which is still preserved, he was rejected. Thomas le Grice served the office of mayor in 1717, and died in 1722, aged 73. Anne le Grys married Robert Palmer, Esq., of Hurst Summing, who died in 1789, aged 73.



Charles le Grys died in 1764, aged 64, leaving Margaret, his only child and heir at law, executrix and universal legatee. She died in 1778, aged 59, and with her the Yarmouth family of this name became extinct.\* They bore quarterly *gu.* and *az.* on a bend *arg.* three boars pass. *sa.* The colors are varied by the different families of Le Grice.†

A family named Harborne resided in this part of the town. William Harborne was bailiff in 1556. He had a son, William Harborne, who filled the same office in 1572. In 1575 he was elected burgess to Parliament by the corporation, on the occurrence of a vacancy by the death of Alderman John Bacon; but on the very next day a majority revoked this decision, and elected Edward Bacon; and it does not appear that any writ had been issued for such elections. Harborne soon afterwards entered upon the diplomatic service of his country. In 1579 he concluded a treaty with Turkey; and in 1588 went to Constantinople as the queen's ambassador. On his return to England he settled at Mundham in Norfolk, where he died in 1617;‡ and

\* She resided at Browston hall, and in Belton church her hatchment still remains. "Her life," says the *Norfolk Chronicle*, "was one continued act of benevolence." "Last Monday, says Ives, writing in 1770, "some villains set fire to the "elegant summer house at Browston, belonging to Mrs. Le Grys, which in a few "hours was entirely burnt to the ground, for the discovery of whom one hundred "guineas reward is offered."

† Papworth, p. 225. An agate set in a ring found here, bears these arms.

‡ His eldest daughter, Anne, married William Sydnor, Esq., of Blundeston, who died in 1632: and secondly, Clere Talbot, Esq., L.L.D., who bore *arg.* a chev. *gu.* between three talbots pass. *sa.* By her first husband she had eight daughters, three of whom became her co-heirs.

in the church there he lies buried, with this inscription to his memory:—

*"Reader, the dust inclos'd beneath this pile,  
 " A life unspott'd lived, devoid of every guile.  
 " Plain in his manners, sincere to his friend,  
 " A pattern of virtue with honesty combin'd,  
 " Shewn thro' ev'ry action while here on earth,  
 " Till unerring fate had stopt his breath."*

He bore *gu.* a lion passant *or.* betw. three bezants, and a crescent for difference. John, his son, left an only daughter and sole heir, Elizabeth, who married Sir Edward Ward of Bixley.

Among those who had houses on the South quay was a family called Wilgrass, Wildgrass, or Wildegos, a name of Danish origin. In 1296 a writ was sent down to the bailiffs from the court of exchequer for service on Henry Wildgros, the return to which was that "the said Henry is in the fleet of our lord the king." Nicholas Wildegros, or Wildgoose, was bailiff in 1383. He died in 1385, and by his will gave to the high altar, 40s.; to the light of the Blessed Mary, 10s.; to the fabric of St. Nicholas' church, 5s.; to each convent of friars of the four orders of mendicants in Great Yarmouth and Gorleston, 5 marks; to St. Mary's hospital, 5s.; to the fabric of the said hospital, 5s.; to each house of lepers, without the walls, 40d.; and to the bellman, 12d. of an annual rent to be received yearly for ever. Alice his widow, who died soon after, gave 20s. to the high altar; 40d. to St. Mary's light, and the same sum to the repair of the church. All the rest of her estate she directed to be sold, and the proceeds applied in masses and other pious uses. Godfrey Wildgrass was bailiff in 1618. He opposed the project of electing a mayor instead of two bailiffs, and he was a supporter of Brinsley. In 1633 he again served the office of bailiff, when an event of some importance occurred. Three "Dunkirkers" brought into Yarmouth harbour, one Sunday afternoon in the month of May, "a great fly-boat," which they sold as their "lawful prize." The bailiffs, suspecting the men, put them in prison, and then wrote to the admiralty for advice how to act in this and such like cases. Great wheels moved slowly in those days, and it was not until August that a letter was received from Lord Cottington and Mr. Secretary Windebank, requesting the bailiffs to take proceedings

against these men for piracy. An admiralty sessions was forthwith held, at which all three were convicted and condemned to death, and one of them, called "Captain Derickson," was hanged without more ado; the other two being respited. The Spanish ambassador having interfered on behalf of these two men, a letter was received from Secretary Windebank stating that the king "liked well their discretion" in deferring the execution of these two men, and requesting that His Majesty might be informed of the "quality of their offence." To this an elaborate answer was immediately returned, setting forth the enormities of the Dunkirkers, who had amongst other misdeeds chased a Hollander into Yarmouth harbour, and in firing upon her had killed a man on shore. There was however no desire at that time to quarrel with Spain, and in a few days a royal pardon was received for the condemned men, and the bailiffs were authorized to deliver the prisoners to Signor Juan de Nicolaldi, "resident here from our good brother the King of Spain." At the same time the bailiffs received a letter from the ambassador requesting that the two men, "subjects of the king his master," might be delivered over to their respective wives, who arrived from Dunkirk for the purpose; and so ended their adventure. Bailiff Wildgrass was no less determined in the affairs of the toilet; for it was in his year of office an ordnance was passed that aldermen's wives should alone be permitted to wear velvet bonnets.

By the leet rolls it appears that in the 14th century persons having houses on the South quay were presented and amerced for not repairing the quay-head opposite to the same, for "over burdening" the quay by placing goods thereon without the leave of the bailiffs, for not paving before their houses, for not cleansing and repairing the gutters, and for "annoying the quay" by putting anchors, boats, timber, stones, and other things thereon, whereby the free passage of the inhabitants was impeded. So rigid were the Headborough inquests in the performance of their duty, that the bailiffs themselves did not escape.\* In

\* There were two Headborough inquests, one for the north and one for the south; each having a foreman annually appointed; their duty was to enquire into all encroachments and nuisances, and to fine the offenders. There was also a Market inquest; and an inquest of Liberties.



1588 Mr. Damett was fined "for not paving his way before his mother's house;" and "for not repairing his gutter, and scouring the same;" but it seems this had been partly caused by Thomas Giles, who was amerced "for annoying the gutter of Mr. Damett with masts."

In 1611 Thomas Damett and Grace his wife sold to William Gray\* a house on the quay called *Bresses Kytchen*, parcel of an orchard sometime of Edmund Lyster, afterwards of Thomas Bateley, between rows north and south, then obstructed, and abutting upon Middlegate street, east, and the quay west.

In 1560 Anthony Loveday was amerced "for pestering John Wakeman, his neighbour, with a great piece of timber."†

In 1560 Henry Manship was amerced "for throwing ballast too near the quay, against the form of the ordinance." He was a native of Yarmouth, having been as he informs us "bredd and borne" in that town. He entered the corporation in 1550; and soon took an active

\* He was bailiff in 1604 and 1617, and took a leading part in municipal affairs.

† The day on which any gratuitous service was performed was called a *Loveday*. It also meant a day set apart for the arrangement of disputes and for reconciliations. The leet court was frequently used for this purpose.

*"Now is the Loveday, made of us four finally ;*

*"Now may we leave in peace, as we were wont."*—COVENTRY MYSTERIES.

The name occurs in the 14th and two succeeding centuries, but is now extinct. Anthony Loveday took an active part in municipal affairs; and in 1541, at the dawn of the reformation, he was one of the four merchants who, in St. Nicholas' church, at the elevation of the Host spoke "heretical words," to the great disturbance of the congregation. He was active in promoting "the building of the new haven," and contributed towards it £5. In 1562 he served the office of bailiff. He married Margaret, daughter of William Claxton of Chediston, in Suffolk. Robert, their son, married Margery, daughter of Thomas Neech of Yarmouth; and Anthony Loveday, their son, who married Eleanor, daughter of William Crowe of Yarmouth, settled at Chediston, where his descendants flourished for several generations. Mary, daughter of Anthony Loveday of Chediston, who died in 1639, must have been very fascinating if her epitaph in Norwich cathedral speaks the truth:—

*"Haste, Reader!—away for fear,*

*"Lest thou dost turn idolater !*

*"For here love, grace, and wit,*

*"In a true virgin's knot are knit."*

The Lovedays bore for their arms per pale *arg.* and *sa.* an eagle with two heads displayed and countercharged, gorged with a ducal coronet *or.*

part in public affairs. The old haven having become obstructed, Manship was, in 1560, named as one of a committee of twelve persons on whom was devolved the responsibility of determining where the new haven should be cut. He "manye tymes travayled in and about that business" as he informs us; and it was mainly by his procurement that Joas or Joyce Johnson, a Dutch engineer, "a man of rare knowledge and experience in works of that nature," was brought from Holland; and the present haven, which was constructed under his direction is a proof of his ability. The wages of this eminent man were 4s. a day! Manship compiled what he called "a Booke of the Foundation and Antiquitye of the Towne of Greate Yermouthe," which records very briefly all the most remarkable events in our local history. The original M.S., "a fair noble folio" as Blomefield calls it, was in the Muniment Room of the Earl of Yarmouth at Oxnead. It passed into the possession of Blomefield, who inserted his bookplate, compiled an index, and wrote several notes. After Blomefield's death in 1751, this M.S. came into the hands of Thomas Martin of Palgrave, the historian of Thetford, known as "honest Tom Martin," and on his death, in 1771, it was obtained by Ives, the Yarmouth antiquary, who esteemed it "a rare and valuable M.S." Ives died in 1776, when his library was dispersed; and nothing more was known of this M.S. until 1846 when it was found by Mr. James Sparke of Bury St. Edmund's among the books and M.S.S. of a deceased brother, and in the following year it was published with notes.

Henry Manship, son of the above-named Henry Manship, was also born in Yarmouth. He was educated at the Free Grammar School, which had then been recently founded upon the site of the dissolved hospital of St. Mary. Destined to follow the profession of the law, he became one of the four attornies of the Borough court. In 1579 he was elected town clerk, and held that office till 1585 when he resigned it; but he continued to be a member of the corporation until 1604, when he gave great offence by saying that Mr. Damett and Mr. Wheeler, two aldermen who then represented the borough, "had behaved themselves in Parliament like sheep, and were both dunces." After this occurrence he appears to have devoted himself to the compilation of a history of the borough, and it was through his solicitation that a committee was

appointed to examine every document then in the possession of the corporation; and their labours are recorded in a book, containing a repertory of such documents, which was engrossed by Manship and delivered to the corporation, and still remains in the possession of the town council. He appears afterwards to have regained their favour, for he was "appointed "to ride to London about a licence to transport herrings in stranger-bottoms, and to endeavour to get the fishers of the town discharged "from buoys and lights." In 1614, when Sir Theophilus Finch and Mr. George Hardware were returned to Parliament for the borough, Manship acted as their solicitor; and in 1616 he was again sent to London to manage some public business, but on this occasion he was accused of improperly "borrowing money in the town's name," and again fell into disgrace. He completed his work in 1619, and the corporation voted him a gratuity of £50; but his expectations of fame and profit were probably not realized, for he published a pamphlet wherein, say his enemies, he "extolled himself and defamed the town," for which Manship deemed it expedient to apologize. He died in 1625 at an advanced age, in great poverty, and the corporation granted a small annuity to his widow, Joan, who was a daughter of Henry Hill of King's Lynn (second son of Henry Hill of Bury St. Edmund's, by Cecily his wife, daughter and heiress of John Riddlesworth), by Anne his wife, daughter of Francis Gournay of West Basham.\* Manship's quaint and curious history remained in M.S. until 1854 when it was published with notes and an appendix.

Among other inhabitants of the South quay was Tobias Gentleman, "fisherman and mariner" as he styles himself. His father resided at Southwold, where he died at the age of 98, having been engaged there in the fisheries for upwards of seventy years, which place he says was well suited for trade but for the "naughty harbour." In 1614 Tobias Gentleman published a book entitled *England's way to Win Wealth, and to employ Ships and Mariners*, wherein he points out that the Dutch had

\* James Hill, the elder brother of the above-named Henry Hill, was the ancestor of the Hills of Bury St. Edmund's, Shadingfield, and Norwich. Henry Hill, son and heir of Thomas Hill of Lynn, brother to Mrs. Manship, settled in Yarmouth, where he married Catherine daughter of James Johnson, and had issue. They bore *gu.*, two bars *erm.*, in chief a lion passant *or.*

engrossed a fishery, which if duly prosecuted by the English would bring wealth to the nation, train up hardy mariners fit for any service, and give employment to numbers of the poor. He says "I am "no scholar, but born a fisherman's son by the sea side; and spending "my youthful time at sea about fisher affairs, I am thereby more "skilful in nets, lines, and hooks, than in rhetorick, logick, and learned "books; yet those few I have read, besides the instinct of nature, "make me to know that every one should endeavour, the best "he is able, to be beneficial and profitable to the kingdom and "commonwealth wherein he is born; which was a forcible motive to "incite me to think of this present discourse." He proceeds to describe the fisheries as then carried on by the Hollanders, and urges that "his Majesty's seas" constituted their "chiefest, principal, and only treasury, whereby they had so greatly prospered and enriched themselves." "Shall we," says he, "neglect so great a blessing? O slothful "England and careless countrymen! Look on these fellows! these plump "Hollanders! behold their diligence and our negligence." He notices all the towns on the east coast and their several advantages for trade, and when he comes to Yarmouth he describes it as "very beautifully "built upon a very pleasant and sandy plain of three miles in length." Hither he says "do resort all the fishermen of the Cinque Ports, and "all the rest of the west countrymen of England, as far as Bridport and "Lyme in Dorsetshire; and these herrings that they take they do "not barrel because their boats are but small things, but sell all unto "the Yarmouth herring buyers for ready money; and also the fisher- "men of the north countries beyond Scarborough and Robin Hood's "Bay, and some as far as the Bishoprick of Durham, do hither resort "yearly, in poor little boats called five-men cobs; and all the herrings "that they take, they sell fresh unto the Yarmouth men to make red "herrings. Also to Yarmouth do daily come into the haven up to the "key, all or most part of the great fleet of Hollanders, that go in sword- "pinks, Holland-toads, crab-skuits, walnut-shells, and great and small "yeures, one hundred and two hundred sail at a time; and all the "herrings that they do bring in, they sell for ready money to the "Yarmouth men; and also the Frenchmen of Picardy and Normandy,

"some hundred sail of them at a time do come hither, and all the herrings they catch they sell fresh unto the Yarmouth herring-mongers for ready gold; so that it amounteth unto a great sum of money that the Hollanders and Frenchmen do carry away yearly from Yarmouth into France and Holland;" and he complains that the Hollanders, not content with taking the fish when quick, take them again when dead, for when the Yarmouth buyers had converted the catch into red herrings, they again stepped in and conveyed them to Civita Vecchia, Leghorn, Genoa, Marseilles, Toulon, and other places. He urged the importance of building busses and other vessels, for securing the benefits of catching the herrings and conveying them to the markets then enjoyed by the Dutch, and also the advantage of building proper fishing vessels for the purpose of obtaining both these trades, and he published an estimate of the cost. This was one of the most important pamphlets of that age. Its statements produced a profound impression; and conduced much to the improvement and enlargement of the herring fishery. It gives an insight into the trade, and has a rude forcible eloquence, and a homely felicity of expression equal to the happiest passages of Defoe. Speaking of the town itself he says, "in all his Majesty's dominions there is not any town comparable unto it for brave buildings." Nevertheless we find the writer's name among those who were amerced for not maintaining his quay.

In 1633 John Seaman\* was amerced "for annoying the quay."

In a house on the quay, the site of which is unknown, resided Edward Owner, a man who took a leading and influential part in municipal affairs at a very critical period. In 1616 he served the office of bailiff, and in 1620, being then forty years of age, was selected to represent the borough in Parliament. Great efforts were made by the Court party to influence the next election in 1623. The

\* This was a surname applied to many families in Yarmouth. Martha, daughter of John Seaman of Great Yarmouth, married Richard Gipps of Horningsherth, who died in 1663, and was mother of Sir Richard Gipps, who was knighted at Little Saxham in Suffolk in 1676. She married, secondly, John Greene, Esq., of Boyshall, near Navestock in Essex. John Seaman was named as an alderman in the charter of James I., which appointment was complained of, he not having previously been a member of the corporation.

Bishop of Norwich wrote a letter to the bailiffs, which they acknowledged "with all love and thankfulness," fully admitting his lordship's "tender care" for the welfare of the town, and although they had no knowledge of the person recommended, yet were fully persuaded of his "worth and sufficiency," and regretted that being "tied by an othe" they could only elect a freeman and an inhabitant. If however the corporation would "abrogate or dispense with that ordinance" (which they well knew was not likely to be done), they, "to show their careful respect of his lordship," would "above all others prefer him whom his lordship had so worthily recommended;" and, "praying to the Almighty long to encrease his lordship's days in all honor and happiness," they humbly took their leave. Sir John Suckling, one of the privy council, also wrote to the bailiffs, offering to supply a member free of charge (for then members were paid by their constituents), but they again pleaded their obligation to obey the ordinance, assuring him that although they had caused his letter to be read "diverse tymes" at their assemblies, and had urged the "frustrating of the ordinance" so as to enable them "to select to the best advantage," they could not bring it to pass; craving therefore a favourable acceptance of their excuses, and entreating him not to be offended at them for not doing that which was out of their power, they end with a similar prayer.\* When however it suited their purpose they speedily revoked the ordinance, for in 1625 they elected Sir John Corbet, as has been already stated, and with him they associated Mr. Owner. In the same year he was again chosen bailiff,† and in his official capacity he received a letter from the

\* Both these admirable letters are printed *in extenso* in P. C., p. 292.

† During this year of office Owner introduced a reform, the order for which in the corporation books discloses the free and easy style of "feasting" which was then in vogue. "Whereas up to this time a custom hath prevailed, that on St. John's day, the decollation, immediately after the choice of bailiffs, a dinner or feast should be made with a banquet for the electors by themselves, and a banquet for the whole house, first at the house of the elder new elect, and then at the younger new elect's house; and commonly a great concourse of people of all sorts gathered, thronged, and thrust themselves in and among those of this house, and by themselves also, to the great annoyance, hindrance, and damage of the houses and new elects, by reason of much waste and disorder; and whereas also neither of the new elects could know of their election;" for in theory, then as now, no one was supposed to

lords of the council stating "his Majesty had been advised that the "King of Spain, both in his remote and near dominions, had prepared "a puissant army, by sea and land to invade the kingdom in a most "hostile manner," whereupon they opined that Yarmouth being "next the danger would be most concerned therein;" and that his Majesty, "out of his royal and tender care," had thought fit not only to send "timely warning," but to give the bailiffs leave, "by the advice of the lord lieutenant or in his absence the deputy lieutenants," to fortify the town; and the bailiffs were enjoined in case any considerable number of ships should be discovered on the coast, to fire the beacons and warn the counties adjacent of their danger. He also received a letter from Sir Thomas Southwell, written at the instance of the Duke of Buckingham, lord high admiral, calling for a return of all ships and men available for his Majesty's service; upon which Mr. Owner required the aldermen and constables of each ward to obtain this information. There were also this year internal as well as external disturbances, for an attempt was made to change the government of the town from two bailiffs to a mayor. Owner and his colleague stood by "the ancient custom," and signed a declaration to that effect. Alderman Jeffery Neve, the chief promoter of the proposed innovation, was dismissed from the corporation; whereupon he petitioned the king in council and so represented his case, that Owner was considered to have "plotted" the dismissal of Neve, and to have acted in a factious and illegal manner;

know on whom the honor would fall; and it was at that time a matter of some uncertainty, because, as we have seen, the persons actually vested with the power of selection could not be foretold, and were in some measure chosen by chance. "And so," continues the order, "they could not provide themselves accordingly; but were "assisted from all parts of the town by others sending to one or other of the new elects " (as they affected or expected favor from them), such banquetting stuff as they thought "fit and were willing to bestow. Now for the better avoiding of all such inconveniences "as accrued by such custom of banquetting, it is henceforth agreed and ordered that "such custom shall not from henceforth be observed, and that such feast and banquet "to the electors shall henceforth be kept by the new bailiffs at one of their houses "only, and at their costs and charges; and that hereafter also the bailiffs, for the "time being, shall yearly at their proper costs and charges provide a feast and "banquet at one of their houses for the entertainment of the electors, the new elects, "and the members of the corporation only."

and the king by letter required the immediate reinstatement of Neve. This letter was read at three assemblies before any decision was arrived at, but, at the last, a majority declined to obey his Majesty's commands, alleging the obligation of their oaths as freemen, to maintain their ancient liberties and customs. The king then referred the question to commissioners who met at the Maid's Head, Norwich, and examined witnesses on both sides, and came to the conclusion that Neve had been rightfully dismissed, and so reported to the committee of privy council: and thereupon the bailiffs received a letter informing them that the king did "leave the business to be ordered by them according to the orders and constitutions of the place," and so Owner and his party triumphed over the Crown, for Neve was in the king's service. In 1629 Owner took an active part in support of Brinsley, in the controversy which has already been mentioned, and obtained for him from the corporation, a certificate of good conduct. He again filled the office of bailiff in 1634, at a time when the levying of ship-money was attempted to be enforced; and although obliged by virtue of his office to endeavour to collect it, the obnoxious impost had his most strenuous opposition. When the Cinque Port bailiffs came this year, as usual, to the free fair, Owner was accused of receiving them with "insolency" and to have "disparaged" their persons, and "infringed their rights and privileges in place and precedence." They complained to Lord Arundel, Earl Marshal of England; who had the parties before him, and after hearing evidence on both sides and "mature deliberation," made a very mild order that there should be for ever thereafter "a courteous carriage and friendly demeanour between the said parties." This award, handsomely written on vellum, with a large seal in fine preservation, is still in the Record room. The fact is that the attendance of the Cinque Port bailiffs, so fussy in regard to their antiquated privileges, had become irksome to the people of Yarmouth, without being of the slightest advantage to the western ports. They were subsequently treated with greater indignity, the payment of the "composition" towards their expences was refused; and their official visits finally ceased in 1662. Some of the west country fishermen continued to come to Yarmouth at the season of the free fair until 1756, when their



visits finally ceased. The time had now arrived when Owner was to leave the petty squabbles of a country town to take a part in the mighty contest between the people and their ruler. When Charles I. called his last Parliament, a final effort was made by the Court to influence the elections. The Earl of Dorset, then high steward of the borough, wrote to the bailiffs recommending Sir John Suckling, "a very noble gentleman, of able parts, both ready and willing to serve the town, as well in Parliament as out;" the receipt of which "noble letter" the bailiffs acknowledged, but said nothing could be done until the precept was received from the sheriff, when they promised to "propound" his lordship's nominee "with such others of the town" as might be proposed, "leaving the issue to Divine Providence, by which all the actions of men are governed." The Earl of Northumberland, at that time lord high admiral, also wrote to the bailiffs, reminding them that "other ports and sea towns in England had theretofore done the favor to other lord admirals of giving them the nomination of one of their members," so the earl entreated them to make choice of Sir Henry Martin, knt., judge of the high court of admiralty. Sir Lionel Tolmach also made a similar recommendation. The bailiffs in their reply to the earl stated what a happiness it would be to have "so able and worthy a gentleman take place in Parliament on their behalf," promising as soon as the warrant for the election came to their hands "to recommend him to the general vote of the assembly, among such, both of our house and others, as are to stand to it;" requesting his lordship, however, "to take into his noble and grave consideration that the election was free." Before the election the Earl of Dorset renewed his request, again strongly recommending Sir John Suckling. The corporation were not to be influenced; they stoutly asserted their independence by returning Edward Owner and Miles Corbet, and these two determined men sat as members for Yarmouth throughout the whole of the Long Parliament. After the election the bailiffs wrote a polite letter to the earl, assuring him that they had nominated "that worthy gentleman, Sir Henry Martin, and had furthered what they could the means of his election," but could not prevail, and being "very sorry" that they could not gratify his lordship in this particular, they "craved his lord-

ship's favorable acceptance of their good intentions." When the civil war broke out the town at once declared for the Parliament, and in pursuance of the "Propositions" the inhabitants in proof of their sincerity and attachment to the cause, brought in money, or plate to be coined into money, "for the payment of soldiers and providence of horses, arms, and ammunition," on which occasion Owner contributed "for a friend," £50 5s. 8d. He greatly exerted himself in providing for the defence of the town, and became president of the artillery corps, who were the volunteers of that day. He was also a magistrate, and one of the elders of the church. On being again elected bailiff in 1645, he pleaded his privilege as a member of Parliament; but the next year he consented to serve. Always active in promoting measures for the good of the town, he originated the establishment of a workhouse, as has been already mentioned (p. 81); and founded a school (independent of the Grammar school which had been long previously endowed) to which he contributed £1,500; a magnificent sum in those days. He also suggested to the corporation the purchase of a library for the use of the town, and the providing a place for its reception, and proposed that the members of the corporation and all other able inhabitants should be called upon to subscribe: but Owner was far in advance of his age, and in this instance he met with no support. Had his design been carried out, as it ought to have been, the town would now have possessed a most curious and valuable collection of books. He died in 1650, aged 74, s. p., having devised the house in which he lived to his nephew and heir, Ralph Owner.\* Elizabeth his widow died in 1672, aged 94. Ralph Owner died in 1676, having devised his property to Ralph Owner his only son and heir, who on his marriage in 1681 made the above-mentioned house the subject of a settlement. In 1683 a fine was levied, and soon afterwards Ralph Owner and Frances his wife conveyed it to Richard Brightin,† and the name of Owner was heard of no more.

\* Son of Ralph Owner, who was town clerk in 1610.

† Richard Brightin died in 1696; Mary his widow in 1717, aged 78; Richard Brightin their son, a wealthy brewer, in 1734, aged 71; Elizabeth his wife in 1727, aged 64; all buried in St. Nicholas' church.

In 1647 THOMAS GOOCH, merchant, was amerced for annoying the quay with anchors. He was a man of wealth and influence, of whom we shall have further occasion to speak. Charles Gooch was a member of the body corporate in 1626, and opposed the intended change of government from two bailiffs to a mayor. He became a leader of the Presbyterian party; and was one of the elders of the congregation established in the north aisle of St. Nicholas' church. He served the office of bailiff in 1646, and died in 1650, aged 74.\*

In 1671 WILLIAM BATEMAN was ordered to remove his deals from the quay, on pain of being indicted in the the Court of King's Bench. The name of Bateman, probably derived from Batman, was of long continuance in Yarmouth.† Thomas Bateman was one of the four jurats named in the articles for the government of the town confirmed by Henry III. In 1349 Simon atte Cross, a burgess, devised to Cicely his wife (who did not survive him many days) a messuage which he had purchased of Thomas Bateman, and after her death he directed the same to be sold and the proceeds applied in celebrating masses, and for other pious uses. John Bateman was named a common council man in the charter of Charles II., and the above-named William Bateman was bailiff in 1665.

Sir William Paston had a residence here, and was, in 1538, "amerced for not repairing his key." The family of Paston, long and



\* The seal, of which an engraving is here given, is on a ring found at Yarmouth, and now in the collection of Robert Fitch, Esq., of Norwich. It bears a merchant's mark with the initials C. G., and was probably the signet of the above-named Charles Gooch.



† Batman, a maker or seller of bats, which were ash poles about six feet long. They were formidable weapons of offence, and were so used by the Sussex smugglers down to the present century. A family of Bateman, descended from Sir Bartholomew Bateman, elder brother of Bateman, Bishop of Norwich, had an ancient seat at Mendham in Suffolk. From this branch is descended the Rev. J. F. Bateman, the present Rector of Lopham in Norfolk. They bore *sa.* three crescents *erm.* in a bordure *eng. arg.* Add. M.S.S. 5524. Blomefield iii. 513.

intimately connected with Yarmouth, was one of the oldest and most renowned of any in Norfolk.\* We have seen how John Paston, the *Heres factus* of Sir John Fastolfe, was forcibly dispossessed of Caister castle by the Duke of Norfolk. This injustice was not tamely submitted to, for Paston "by the like force sought again to enter and take the castle from the duke; abouts which variance there fell out many riots and outrageous misdemeanors," of which the duke complained to the king, and he also sought "to defile the blood and gentility of Paston." By the king's order the case was openly heard before him in the Exchequer Court, where Sir John Paston, the son of the dispossessed heir, not only proved his title but his own "lineall descent in bloode and gentility from the conquest," whereupon the then duke gave up the estate to Paston, and "acknowledged that in mere conscience he had done him wronge." In 1523 Henry VIII. employed Sir William Paston, the grandson of Sir John, to march a powerful army into Scotland to compel the renouncement of an alliance with France. The king had previously addressed a letter to Sir William and also to the bailiffs of Yarmouth thanking them for the exertions made for the defence of the town.† At the reformation he was appointed sequestrator for the Crown, and great disputes arose between him and the corporation touching the disposal of the goods belonging to the priory and hospital. His grandson, who as we have seen had a house on the South quay, married Frances, daughter of Sir Thomas Clere of Stokesby. He was noted for his great hospitality and benevolence; and founded the Grammar school at North Walsham, which greatly flourished for upwards of two

\* A splendid book of the genealogy of the Paston family compiled by Francis Sandford, Rouge Dragon, was in possession of the late Duke of Newcastle; and by permission of his grace an account of it, prepared by Francis Worship, Esq., was contributed to the Norfolk and Norwich Archæological Society, and was by them printed in their Norfolk Archæology, vol. iv. p. 1.

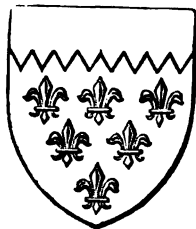
† In 1521 a ship of Flanders, belonging to "our derest brother and nephew the emperor," as the king styles him, was cast ashore near Grubb's haven, and immediately taken possession of by the bailiffs, who obtained from her two guns called "alyngs," and two others called "hagbushes," "for which your painfull labours and diligent acquittails herein used, we," continued the king, "give unto you our hearty thanks, assuring you that ye have done unto us herein full thankfull service and pleasure to your great lawde and praise."

centuries. He was High Sheriff of Norfolk and Suffolk in 1565 (for there was but one for both counties till 1576); and died in 1610, aged 82, and lies buried under a fine monument in North Walsham church. His atchievement, painted on panel, was suspended in St. Nicholas' church, with an inscription beginning thus:—

*"His arms stand here, whose works of charity*

*"Shall speake his praise, though he in dust doth lye."\**

Fourth in descent from him was Sir William Paston (created a baronet in 1642), who married the Lady Katherine Bertie, daughter of the Earl of Lindsay. Their eldest son, Sir Robert Paston, was, like his father, a devoted royalist, and took an active part in promoting the restoration, for which service he was rewarded by the grant of an imposition on deals imported, which it is said brought him in £3,000 a year. In 1671 he entertained Charles II. with lavish hospitality at Oxnead; and in 1673 was created Baron Paston of Paston and Viscount Yarmouth. On the death of the Earl of Clarendon in the following year, he was chosen high steward of the borough; and in 1676 was appointed Lord Lieutenant and Vice-Admiral of Norfolk. In 1679 he was advanced to the dignity of Earl of Yarmouth, and the differences which had existed between him and the corporation having been adjusted, by Mr. Henry Palmer on behalf of the earl, and by Sir Robert Baldock on the part of the corporation, the latter presented him with a tun of port wine. The earl was very corpulent, as may be seen by his portrait engraved by Vaudrebanc, and towards the end of his life had become of an unwieldy size. He was accomplished; was possessed of some taste and learning, and during his foreign travels had formed a considerable collection of "rarities and curiosities." He died in 1683, aged 51. Dr. Hildeyard, who preached his funeral sermon, assured his hearers that so great was his lordship's love to the ancient, loyal, and honorable



\* The arms depicted are *arg.*, six fleurs de lis *az.*, and a chief indented *or.*; with the crest—a griffin sejant, with wings displayed *or.* gorged with a ducal coronet *arg.* and a chain *or.* on a torse *or.* and *az.*, supported by a bear *sa.*, chained *or.*, and an ostrich *arg.* with an horse shoe in his mouth *or.* It was a most unusual thing for anyone under the rank of a peer to use supporters. This atchievement is now in the vestry.

corporation of Norwich, that "his very sleep was often times broken to find out ways how best to serve them!" He ascribes to the deceased peer every virtue under the sun; but, says the preacher, "he had his infirmities; yet let not that customary sin, contracted in his younger time, of swearing, be his reproach;" and he ends by saying that his lordship "lived like a gentleman,—a true and loyal protestant—a sound member of the church of England, and his death was a civil, easie, and well-natured death."\* He was succeeded in his titles and estates by his eldest son, William, second Earl of Yarmouth, who was also appointed high steward of the borough, and had his burgess letter presented to him in a silver box with the town arms engraved upon it. He married Charlotte Fitzroy, a natural daughter of Charles II., by the Viscountess Shannon (daughter of Sir Wm. Killegrew), by whom he had three sons who all died *viâ patris* and without issue. He adhered to James II., who in 1687 made him treasurer of the royal household, upon which occasion the corporation presented his lordship with a congratulatory address accompanied by two hogsheads of claret. In the same year the king gave him the Lord Lieutenancy of Wiltshire. When in 1687 that monarch endeavoured to pack a Parliament he applied to Lord Yarmouth to assist him, but was told by the earl that of sixty deputy lieutenants and magistrates to whom he had applied, only seven gave favorable answers, and that of these none could be trusted. After the revolution of 1688 he was looked upon with suspicion; and in 1690 he was arrested at his seat at Oxnead, and committed to the tower on a charge of high treason. He was soon afterwards liberated and kissed hands with King William, as did his son, Viscount Paston, who then joined the army in Flanders. When in 1696 Sir George England and Mr. Fuller were attending their Parliamentary duties, they, as they informed the bailiffs by letter, dined with the earl one Sunday, "upon a solemn invitation the Thursday before," when they gave his lordship

\* This sermon was printed, and is now scarce. Many curious and interesting letters written by the earl, chiefly to his wife, from 1677 to 1680, were in the collection of the late Dawson Turner, Esq. The earl's fourth son, the Hon. Thomas Paston, was one of the "Portsmouth captains" who declared for the Prince of Orange in 1688. He was drowned on board H. M. S. *Coronation* in 1693.

"the corporation's service," which he was pleased to accept and to "express himself ready at all times to serve the borough to the utmost of his power." "We hope what we have done," added the cautious members, "though without your express authority and command, will not be taken amiss." When the Tories returned to power in 1711, the Earl of Yarmouth was one of the peers who attended Harley when he was sworn in as lord high treasurer. He married, secondly, a daughter of Lord North, but had no issue by her; and on his death in 1732 this ancient family became extinct in the direct line.\* The earl enjoyed a pension of £2,000 a year; but died so deeply in debt that all the family estates were ordered to be sold by a decree in chancery for the benefit of creditors. They were knocked down for £87,000, but the biddings were re-opened according to the then practice of the court, and were ultimately sold for £92,700. This sad ending brought to men's minds an old tradition, which said that one of the Pastons having largely endowed the abbey of Broomholm, adjacent to the original family seat at Paston, the heir claimed the estate as being entailed. This caused great consternation in the convent, and the earnest endeavours of the abbot to prevent such "sacrilege," as he termed restitution, being unavailing, "the abbot caused all y<sup>e</sup> monks to go with him in their proper religious habits, and so prostrated themselves to y<sup>e</sup> ground upon their knees, "and with tears in their eyes besought the heir to change his purpose, "offering strong arguments, and particularly not to expose himself and family to y<sup>e</sup> anger of the Blessed Virgin and y<sup>e</sup> saints, and the curse of God; but the heir continued obstinate and unmoveable. Thereupon "all rising up, the abbot said, Sir, since you are thus inexorable and cruel "to us and our brethren and the house, you shall certainly henceforth "always have one of your family a fool till it becomes poor; and this "being said they turned out and departed to their abbey." The writer who relates this tradition and who died in 1770, adds "it has been reported as known truth, that for many generations successively there

\* Le Neve, in his private journal, asserts that Viscount Paston, the earl's son, who was born "in the king's palace at Whitehall," and had for his Godfathers Charles II. and the Duke of York, afterwards James II., died at Greenwich in 1718, having first married Elizabeth, daughter of one Pell, a porter, whose wife was an apple woman, keeping a stall by Willis' coffeehouse in Covent Garden.

"had been a male of that family who always went in long coats; and "the last earl had a brother so weak of understanding as to be made sport "of," while "how much y<sup>e</sup> last part of y<sup>e</sup> abbot's curse had come to pass, "was very well remembered by many tradesmen who wanted the money "justly due to them."\* The library at Oxnead (which contained a large collection of M.S.S.) was sold by auction,† the family relics and numberless objects of virtu which had been collected during successive generations were dispersed,‡ and the house itself was dismantled.§

Before leaving the subject we may here state what became of the title. In 1740 George II. created Madame Amelia Sophia Walmoden, Countess of Yarmouth. Why this town was selected for such an equivocal honor does not appear. She had by marriage an only son, who died at Hanover in 1743. "On the 18th of April, 1763, the Countess of

\* *Pastwick and Relatives*, p. 13. The ruins of this priory at Bacton, on the east coast of Norfolk, are still standing. Hither was brought the body of John Paston, the *heres factus* of Sir John Fastolfe, K.G., who died in London in 1466. The journey thence occupied six days; priests, dirge singers, and torch bearers attending the whole way. See Turner's *Caister Castle*.

† Blomefield, in a letter to Major Waldon, written in 1735, states that he had then been engaged for a fortnight at Oxnead, examining "between thirty and forty chests" containing "evidences of Norfolk only;" and he adds that he had taken out and carried home with him such as related to the Yarmouth charters; as also an ancient history of the borough, which no doubt was the "Booke of the Foundation and Antiquitye of the Towne of Greate Yermouths" already mentioned. The earl had in his possession the celebrated Paston letters. After his death they became the property of Peter le Neve, and from him passed (with his widow) into the possession of that excellent antiquary, "Honest Tom Martin." When the collections of the latter were dispersed, these letters were purchased by Mr. Worth of Diss, from whom they passed to Sir John Fenn, who by publishing them opened a vast storehouse of antiquarian knowledge to the literary world. The originals were presented by him to George III., who knighted Fenn and lost the M.S.S. Upon a late enquiry into the authenticity of these letters, it was discovered that some of them had been submitted to the Yarmouth antiquary, Thomas Barber.

‡ The Norfolk papers advertised that any gentleman requiring "fine large stone statues, grand marble mantel pieces, tapestry, images of brass, &c.," might be supplied from Oxnead hall and Paston hall "at a cheap rate." Many of these things are now at Blickling, in the possession of the Marquis of Lothian.

§ At Rackheath there is a drawing of Oxnead hall when in its glory. What remains of that once splendid seat is, with the adjoining estate, in the possession of Sir Henry Stracey, Bart.



Yarmouth set out from her house in Pall Mall for Harwich, to embark on board the king's yacht, the *Mary*, for Hanover, there to spend the remainder of her days." A portrait of her had been painted a few months previously by Sir Joshua Reynolds. She died in 1765, and the title became extinct, having been granted for life only.\*

In 1793 the Earldom of Yarmouth was conferred upon the Earl of Hertford, who at the same time was advanced to the dignity of a marquis. His grandson, well known as Lord Yarmouth, was for many years one of the leaders of fashion at the Court of the Regent.†



ARMOUTH QUAY has long been celebrated. It admeasures one mile and two hundred and seventy yards in length, and was originally a free and open quay from one extremity of the town to the other. Defoe declared it to be "the finest quay in England, if not in Europe; at least equalling Marseilles itself." It has also been compared with the quays at Seville and Antwerp, and with the Boompjes at Rotterdam; and to the two last it is certainly superior. Syllas Neville considered it "one of the noblest in the world." That portion which lies between the *South Gate* and the *South Foreland* (where the Town hall now stands) is called *South Quay*, while the portion extending from the *North Foreland* to the

\* Field Marshal Count Waldmoden Gunboon, her son by George II., died at Hanover in 1811, aged 74.

† "A view of Yarmouth" will be found among Dighton's admirable caricatures. The celebrities of that day were known among their associates by soubriquets more or less witty. Lord Yarmouth, who cultivated large red-coloured whiskers, was called by his companions "Red Herrings." He was second to Lord Castlereagh in his celebrated duel with Canning. Being at Paris when war broke out after the peace of Amiens, Lord Yarmouth was arbitrarily seized by Napoleon, and sent to the fortress of Verdun, where he was detained until 1806, when at the request of Fox, and through the interest of Talleyrand, he was liberated for the purpose of conveying verbally to the British minister overtures of peace. These were favorably received; but when Lord Yarmouth returned to Paris he found that the French Government had been negotiating with Russia, and ultimately the war was continued with increased vigour. He succeeded to the marquisate in 1822, and died, aged 66, in 1842, leaving an enormous fortune.



Drawing by J. P. Nease



*North-West Tower* is called the *North Quay*. The intermediate space, emphatically *The Quay*, is for distinction sake, also called the *Broad Quay* and the *Short Quay*. Manship terms it "the Cheapside of Yarmouth," and says it was in his time distinguished for its "stately and comely buildings." Since the erection of the Town hall in 1716, this open space has also been called *The Hall Quay*, but as that term would properly apply only to the ground in front, it is more correct to term it the *Hall Plain*. If the owners of houses on the east side had been compelled to adopt a regular line of frontage, this open ground would indeed have been a PLACE of which any city might well be proud; but by the projection of the houses on one side, and by the bending of the river on the other, this plain has now assumed a shape not unlike that of an hour glass.

Upon the Hall plain there formerly stood some trees which have disappeared; but two rows of trees now extending nearly the entire length of the South quay, produce a striking and picturesque effect, and form an agreeable promenade.\*

Defoe very accurately describes the appearance of the river, when he says "the ships ride here so close, keeping up as it were one another, "with their heads fast on shore, that for half a mile together they go "across the stream with their bowsprits over the land, their bows or "heads touching the very wharfs; so that one may walk from ship to "ship as on a floating bridge all along the shore side." A traveller, writing in 1796, describes Yarmouth as "indeed a beautiful town," and remarks that "the view from the centre of the bridge down the river among the shipping is singularly fine."

That portion of the quay which lies between the *South Gate* and *Friars' Lane* was called *The Stand*, and was appropriated to the use of the *Dominican Friars*, whose possessions were immediately opposite. At the dissolution of that convent this quay was taken possession of by the corporation, and there being a considerable space between the

\* These trees were formerly supported by the owners of the adjacent houses, but this duty having been in many instances neglected, the Local Board of Health some years since took this charge upon themselves, and it is to be hoped that so great an ornament to the town will for the future be scrupulously preserved.

haven and the road which led to the *South Gate*, it was let out for the purpose of landing anchors, hauling up, building and repairing fishing boats, and such like purposes; but it remained entirely uninclosed and unbuilt upon, as to the greater part, until the present century. There was a row of trees next the road which remained until the latter was widened in 1868, and other trees extended to the river side, all of which have now disappeared. Some encroachments were made opposite Friars' lane in the 17th century; and in 1647 Matthew Goodwin was amerced for having erected "a certain wooden house on the quay aforesaid," which was ordered to be removed. When Corbridge published his map in 1724 the quay from the *South Gate* to *Friars' Lane* was still open, and it was so represented by Buck in 1741. The space next the river, between the bridge and the *North Foreland*, was also open quay and unbuilt upon with the exception of a warehouse for the use of the Norwich trade; for here the wherries which formerly conveyed passengers and goods to and from Norwich, were wont to take in and land their cargoes. Towards the close of the last century the corporation, very unadvisedly, granted leases of this ground for stables and business purposes; but when these leases expired, their successors, with more regard to the beauty of the town and the public convenience, refused to renew them, and the site was cleared.\* From the *North Foreland* to the *Conge* there were very few buildings before the commencement of the 18th century; but now the ground is completely covered. One of the first erections on the North quay was a post windmill, which in 1579 one Christopher Short was allowed to build on "a plot of ground" there. We find this part of the quay in 1600 still called the *Lord's Quay*; and in that year the "void ground" between the mill and the river was ordered "to be hedged with brush," and a "breakwater" to be made. In 1639 a piece of void ground lying near the Quay mill was leased to Arthur Bacon, he keeping up a substantial quay next the haven. The ground lying between the *Quay Mill* and the *Lime-Kiln Walk*, originally open quay,

\* A judgment given by the Barons of the Exchequer, upon a special case in 1861, decided that the soil of all the quays was vested in the town council, and that the public had the right of using them freed from the inconveniences occasioned by the placing and continuing anchors and other goods thereon.

was set apart in 1678 by the corporation for the benefit of the Children's hospital. It has long been covered with houses and other buildings which are now held under leases granted by the charity trustees. A portion of this property was, as early as the 17th century, used as a Green for the then favorite and fashionable amusement of bowls. It may be distinguished in Corbridge's view, by the trees next the river wall to the north of the mill which was then standing.\* The *North*

\* Dean Davies, writing in 1689, says "after dinner Mr. Crow came and sat with me, and with him I went to the Green, to see Mr. Milbourn play bowls;" Milbourn being at that time minister of the parish, and Davies lecturer. It may be imagined from this and other extracts we shall make from his diary, that the dean was lax in his morals, and inattentive to his clerical duties, but it was not so. He merely complied with the manners and customs of the times, combined perhaps with a little of the Irish element. He was a learned divine, fond of books, and as we find by his journal often passing the whole day in study. He was skilled in medicine, and was always ready to give his advice, and to visit and pray with the sick. Bowls, says Dean Hook, continued to be a fashionable amusement among the clergy to a very late period. Cranmer, he relates, was "eager in the game of bowls" after his degradation from the archbishoprick and when under sentence of death. Vol. ii. p. 397. Doran tells us that two distinguished prelates, Atterbury of Rochester (1713) and Egerton of Durham (1781), were distinguished players. If a stranger intruded on the Green, when the game was going on, he was pretty sure to hear from one of the chaplains,—“Take care, sir, the bishop's going to bowl.” Dissenting ministers were also frequenters, for says Sylls Neville, in 1771, “I went with Walker to a Bowling green on the quay.”

As we shall have frequent occasion to mention Dean Davies, we will here state who he was. The Rev. Rowland Davies was the son of a gentleman (descended from a Herefordshire family), who settled at Bandon in Ireland, in the early part of the 17th century, and who married Eliza, daughter of Capt. Robert Stannard, by Martha his wife, daughter of Sir Robert Travers, knt., judge advocate (killed at the battle of Knocknanoes), by Eliza his wife, daughter of Richard Boyle, Archbishop of Tuam. The Rev. Rowland Davies, with many other protestant clergymen, fled from Ireland in 1689, to escape the severities of the Earl of Tyrconnel, who was in arms for James II. When in London, and in want of employment, he was introduced by Dr. Sharpe, Dean of Norwich (afterwards Archbishop of Canterbury), to Mr. England and Mr. Fuller, the town's representatives in the Convention Parliament, and upon their recommendation he was appointed by the corporation to be assistant lecturer (the Rev. Joshua Meen being in ill health), with a salary of “£100 per annum, paid quarterly without any cure of souls, but preaching twice a week; on the Lord's day and some week day.” During his residence in Yarmouth he kept a very minute and extremely amusing diary, which has been published by the Camden society. When he and his friends were in great pecuniary difficulties,

*Quay*, now properly so called, is the open plain extending to the town wall and north-west tower. So little was this part of the town frequented in the 17th century, that the houses fronting the quay are described in old deeds as abutting upon a meadow next the river.

they obtained a loan of £400 from Mr. Fuller, to be repaid with interest at 50 per cent., "within a month after King William and Queen Mary were in actual possession of Dublin castle." After residing for seven months in Yarmouth the reverend gentleman anticipating a triumphant return to Ireland, resigned his lectureship, and obtained a chaplaincy in Lord Cavendish's regiment of horse ; and when King James was driven out of Ireland, he was rewarded with the deanery of Cork.



RAMP ROW.

## CHAPTER V.

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*"I know each lane ——"*

*"And ancient neighbourhood."—CRABBE.*

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**B**EFORE taking the reader up and down the Rows of YARMOUTH, let us see what White says when describing the approach to the town from the North river in his *Eastern England*:—"One might fancy the Bure reluctant to enter the sea, so many windings does it make below Stokesby; and it is somewhat puzzling to identify your position where the objects on shore appear to be continually changing place. More than once did we appear to be running straight for Yarmouth, when a sudden bend would take us away seemingly a mile or more in the opposite direction. As we descend the signs multiply of the struggle between land and water, and instead of pumps worked by wind we see here and there a small engine-house with stumpy chimney, and a scoop-wheel driven by steam discharging a rapid stream from the drains. Let that busy clank and splash and rumbling plunge cease to be heard for awhile, and water would soon assert its supremacy in these lower levels. Runham Swim and Mautby Swim, places where cattle swim across for want of bridges, are left behind and wherries become more numerous. Another mile and the banks are protected by a slope of large flints, on which the tide has left traces, and there is a firm continuous path on each side. At last we do get near the town; and the appearance becomes more and more like a Dutch landscape; there are houses with quaint gables and dormer windows, and long lines of trees, and masts of ships rising among roofs and between gaps in the



"trees and buildings. Some of these masts belong to vessels at anchor in the sea, and while looking at them your eye is attracted by the sand-hills glistening in places against the sun, and the high-perched look-out, a kind of crow's nest, at Caister. Then we pass a noisome place where wherries take in 'keel-muck.' Then gardens and orchards, and boats, and punts, and more wherries, and an ancient round tower with conical roof on the left bank, then under the bridge, past Vauxhall gardens, and the Wherry-men's church, and we make fast to a wharf where the Bure flows into Breydon water.

The first ~~Ramp~~, beginning at the north end of the town, leads from *North Quay* to the *North Gate*. It is the longest row; extending from east to west, about three hundred yards, and is commonly called *Ramp Row*, doubtless a contraction or corruption of *Rampart Row*, as being immediately behind or within the town wall or rampart; and Swinden appears to have been of this opinion, for on the map prepared by him it is so designated. In some old deeds it is occasionally called the *Common Ramp*. The *TOWN WALL* extending from the N.W. Tower on the east bank of the River Bure to the *North Gate*, forms the north boundary of this row; and may still be seen with a ruined tower about midway. "Pass along *Ramp Row*," says White, "and you see how the wall is supported within by arched recesses seven feet in depth; a firm base for the superstructure." Above these arches was a walk for the garrison, running from tower to tower. Houses of a very mean description have been built against this wall, originally without any authority; for in 1641 a committee was appointed to view them, and enquire by whom such houses in *Ramp Row* had been built. They have long been occupied as alms houses, and are vested in the churchwardens and overseers, but the town council are the owners of the soil. "The poor people who inhabit them," says White, "use these recesses as bedrooms," and for other purposes. He adds "as the herring is popularly spoken of as 'a Ramp-row goose,' you will be able to sympathise with the inhabitants as regards their diet."\* Some of

\* A red herring—"one of the best of edibles," says Moor, was also called a Yarmouth capon. *Moor's Words and Phrases*, p. 500.



YANNOU  
View in the Lake of Geneva



these houses have been cleared away; and it is to be hoped that the whole will soon disappear, and that more suitable habitations will be provided for the poor elsewhere.\* This row will then be wide enough for the passage of carriages, and will be a convenient thoroughfare from *Caister Road* to *North Quay*. On the south side near the east end until very recently there was a very old wall, with a low arch, which seemed coeval with the fortifications. At the east end, in continuation of the town wall, stood the *North Gate*, which was the only exit on this side of the town. At the south-east corner, fronting *North Gate Road*, was a public house formerly called the *Plough*, afterwards the *Jolly Farmers*, the site of which is now occupied by a granary.† To the south of the above is another public house formerly called the *Bird in Hand*, afterwards the *Black Horse*,‡ and now the *East and West Flegg*. Still further south is another public house, called the *Huntsman and Horn*.§ At the west end of this row there is a public house, fronting the south, called the *White Swan*;|| another public house, fronting west, now

\* In this row died in 1869 Maria Bowles, aged 91.

† It was a custom which continued to be observed long after the commencement of the present century, for the labourers of the neighbouring farmers, after harvest to come into the town, and apply to those with whom their employers were acquainted, for a gratuity. If their request was acceded to they offered to "halloo largess." The men and boys formed a circle outside the house, by taking hold of each others hands, and upon a signal given they all shouted *largess* as long and as loud as their lungs would permit, three several times, elevating their hands with each shout as high as they could, still keeping hold. (*Meo periculo*. See Hone's *Every Day Book*, vol. ii. p. 1167.) The money obtained was all spent in drink, which led to disorders; and the custom no longer prevails.

‡ The *Black Horse* was bestowed by Odin, the God of war, and king of the other deities in Scandinavian mythology. Sayers thus addresses him in the *Descent of Frea*:—

"Chief of warriors, King of Night,  
"Charging on thy sable steed,  
"Dashing thro' the gory fight,  
"Thou smildest when thousands bleed."

§ Hounds appear to have been kept at or in the immediate neighbourhood in the 18th century, for Ives, sen., writing in 1736, says, "Father and I out hunting with the Gorleston hounds; and put up a leash of hares."

|| The *White Swan* was a badge of the House of Lancaster, derived from the De Bohuns, who received it from the Mandevilles, Earls of Essex. They, and also the Nevilles, had a common ancestor in Adam Fitz Swan (perhaps corrupted from Sweyn), who had large estates in England at the time of the Conqueror. There is an old legend of three brothers having been transferred into swans.

called the *Lord Collingwood Tavern*, was formerly known as the *Wherry*, and afterwards as the *Dog and Duck*. Another public house to the east, was formerly called the *Pack Horse*.\* These latter houses were principally for the accommodation of wherry-men, bringing grain down the River Bure to the North quay, which here was called the *North Chains*.†

*Note*, No. 2, from *North Quay* to *North Gate Street*; which latter leads from the *North Gate* to the north end of *White Horse Plain*; and is so designated in Armstrong's map. This row was called *Black Horse Row*, from the public house at the east end, already mentioned. It is nearly of the same length as row, No. 1, but is divided into two parts by a very narrow *Cross Row*, which runs from the town wall north and south. On the east side of *North Gate Street*, near the church yard, is an ancient hostelry called the *King's Arms*, a sign which is to be found in every town. Here there is a *Steel Yard*. In the 17th century this house was the property of Sir Thomas Medowe; and prior to 1772 it belonged to John Vout, liquor merchant, who also possessed the houses adjoining to the north, which abut eastward on the town wall. The royal arms, carved in the tympanum of the pediment, over the gateway leading into the Inn yard have been lately removed. Dean Davies, in his journal, writing in 1690, says, "Feb. 13.—Being the day of their 'Majesties' accession to the crown, the bailiffs and aldermen went to

\* This is an old sign now going out of use, but common at the commencement of the last century, when pack horses afforded the only means of conveying goods from one town to another. Pack horses went in long strings, one following the other, pretty much as in the present day mules traverse Spain; in England in 1353, as in Spain in 1867, the leading beast, the most remarkable for sagacity, bearing a bell or a collar of bells wherewith to guide aright those that followed.

† Anthony Wyn had a house near the *North Chains*. He resigned his seat in the council on "going over sea into Holland there to dwell;" but in 1639, having returned, he was restored to his former place, and thenceforth took an active part in local affairs. In 1645 he had liberty "to set up a blubber oil pan" out of the *North Gate*, and to make use thereof "for boiling of fish livers." In 1643 the store of gunpowder for the 6th battery was kept at his house. In 1648 he signed the Solemn League and Covenant. Nine freemen of the name of Winn voted at the election in 1754 principally for Fuller and Browne. Sampson Winn, who was then Parish clerk, endeavoured to please both parties by voting for Walpole and Fuller.

"church in their scarlet gowns, and returned in solemn procession. "As they passed by all the guns in the East Fort were fired. I dined at "Mr. Bailiff England's in much company. After dinner I went to "the coffee house, where I spent some time with Mr. Benjamin England "and Mr. Fowle. Thence with Capt. Robins and Dr. Cotton to the "*King's Arms*; where they treated me with wine and oysters." In 1695 the town clerk was instructed by the corporation to inform the haven commissioners that the accounts were ready for inspection; and the chamberlains were directed to make provision at the *King's Arms* of "six dishes of meat for supper on Monday night; and six dishes of meat for dinner on Tuesday and Wednesday, fit to be set before gentlemen;" so that attending a meeting of the commissioners then occupied three days, and was an expensive affair.\* At the north-west corner of the church yard there was formerly a style, leading into it; and also some alms houses which were pulled down in 1729. One of these was the gift of Thomas Mortimer in 1636, "for the use of the poor."† Between Row No. 1 and Row No. 8 there are two openings towards the west. The first (from the north) being called *Laughing Image Corner*, and the other *Rainbow Corner*. The former is so named from the "images" of two children within niches, which still appear on the front of a house facing south.‡ The second opening took its name from an adjoining public house.§ The space between was unoccupied until the commencement of the present century, when the corporation granted a lease of it for building purposes, and these houses are now freehold with a slight exception.

\* The commissioners at that time were—for Norfolk, Sir Isaac Preston, knt., and John Houghton, esq.; for Suffolk, Sir John Playters, bart., and Sir Thomas Allen, bart.; for Norwich, Francis Gardiner, esq., and John Ward, esq.; and for Yarmouth, George England, esq., and Samuel Fuller, esq.

† He filled the office of bailiff in 1593 and 1606. John Mortimer was named as an alderman in the charter of James I.

‡ The tradition is that they were placed there by the proprietor in remembrance of his two children, whose early deaths he deplored; but why they should be called "laughing" is not explained. They were there as far back as the commencement of the present century.

§ The *Rainbow* is an old sign. In 1657 James Farr, who kept the *Rainbow* in Fleet street, London, was prosecuted "for making and selling a certain liquor called coffee, to the nuisance and prejudice of the neighbourhood."

Row, No. 3, leads from the north part of *Laughing Image Corner* to *North Gate Street*. It was called *Boulter's Row*, from a baker's shop at the north-east corner long kept by a family of that name.\* Some years since in sinking a well in this row, the workmen, at the distance of about fifteen feet from the surface, came upon sand in which were embedded the remains of a boat of rude construction, which must have been buried there for many centuries. The house which had stood on this spot and was then pulled down, was a very old one. At the south-east corner of this row is a public house now called the *Horse and Groom*, belonging in 1738 to Andrew Chambers of Honing.

The above being the first baker's shop we have arrived at, let us pause to consider the regulations which were formerly enforced. Bread being "the staff of life," the trade of a baker was from a very early period the subject of municipal regulation. The old ordinances in Yarmouth respecting bakers are curious. In 1555 the corporation decreed that no baker should bake in the town unless appointed by the bailiffs. They had previously been prohibited from making "ship bread," but this order was repealed. In 1595, in consequence of the scarcity of wheat, bread and biscuits were ordered to be made of rye, and two persons were appointed inspectors to report to the bailiffs all who disobeyed; and in the following year the sale of bread and beer to the Scotch fishermen was altogether prohibited. From the time of King John their profits were limited, and yearly an "assize of bread" was determined by the bailiffs. In 1603 the price of a quarter of wheat was fixed at 22s., and they were allowed 6s. per quarter for baking; and two-penny wheaten bread and halfpenny white bread were to be of a fixed weight, or the bakers were liable to a fine. All bread seized on account

\* Boulter's rusks had a very extensive reputation. The last proprietor, Mr. Henry Boulter, was an alderman, and for many years a member of the town council for the North or St. Nicholas' ward. He died in 1865, unmarried, and was buried in the ground attached to the chapel of the Society of Friends in Row No. 63, of which community he was a member. His uncle, Daniel Boulter, formed an extensive museum, of which we shall have occasion to speak. The name is derived from the *boulting* or sifting of flour. In 1787 Joseph Boulter, confectioner, was the owner of two houses near the west end of the Market row. A Norfolk family named Bolter bore *vert.* a bend betw. two birdbolts bendways *or.* point downward.

of not being of full weight was applied to the maintenance of prisoners. By an ordinance made in the reign of Elizabeth, bakers were required to sell four loaves for a penny, two loaves for a penny, and one loaf for a penny, according to the prescribed weights; and every baker was to put his proper seal or sign on his own bread, for the better identification of the same. Bakers to this day mark their bread;—so long do old customs linger. The origin of the term “baker’s dozen” is this:—It was an ancient custom for bakers to give the retailer “thirteen articles of bread for twelve,” and instead of paying him for his trouble in money, he had the privilege of retaining the thirteenth loaf. Bakers of white bread were on no account to make brown bread; which regulation was intended to prevent a common fraud of having bread of good quality outside and coarse within.

The public house on the North quay, formerly called the *Horse Shoes*,\* was in 1721 the property of George Wells, and remained in his family for many years.

Row, No. 4, from the south side of *Laughing Image Corner* to *North Gate Street*. In this row there is an old house with round windows, locally called “*Cowmouths*.” There was also a large half-timbered house, converted into a place of call for cadgers or tramps.

Row, No. 5, from *Cross Row* to *White Horse Plain*. This row was called *Split-Gutter Row*, because of a large open gutter which formerly ran down the middle of it. There are several old houses still remaining in this row; and it is said that William Butcher, Esq., resided in it when he filled the office of mayor in 1753. He died in 1779, aged 82. On the occasion of the election of his successor an incident

\* This is a very old sign derived from an ancient superstition, that a horse shoe accidentally found and nailed on the threshold of a door hindered witches from entering a house.

“*Hang up horse shoes, hence to scare,  
The hags that ride the midnight air.*”

A horse shoe was also considered efficacious in bringing “good luck;” and down to the present day it is frequently found nailed to the door or lintel. Nelson, the undaunted, had great faith in the horse shoe; and caused one to be nailed to the mast of the *Victory*.



occurred which led to litigation. At the Grand Assembly on the Feast day of the Decollation of St. John the Baptist, Benjamin Lane, one of the common council being then dead, it was proposed to proceed in filling up the vacancy, but the mayor ruled that the Assembly must proceed to the election of a mayor. Upon the inquest chosen in the manner already described, were Thomas Browne, Brightin Wakeman, and David Mason, who when the inquest had agreed, threw up the windows of the guildhall, and declared the result to the populace; and the door being then unlocked, the latter rushed into the hall. The gentlemen above named "went home to refresh themselves;" and on their return Mason was locked out. "In this corporation," says a case submitted to counsel, "the members are divided into parties, and the mayor thus chosen (Richard Baker, Esq.) espouses one party, and endeavours all he can to distress the other." It was endeavoured to upset the election by reason of the non-presence of Mason at the formal announcement of the verdict by the mayor, but the objection was held to be insufficient.

All open spaces within the town were called *Plains*; and there are several. *White Horse Plain* is in shape an irregular triangle; the road leading from *North Gate Street* to its south-east corner forming the longest side. This road divides the plain from the churchyard, which was formerly bounded by a low brick wall with a stone coping; and immediately opposite the great west door of the church there was a brick arched gateway of the 17th century. Between the road and the church wall there was a row of poplars. Wall, gateway, and poplars have all disappeared.

Row, No. 6, from *Cross Row* to *White Horse Plain*, called (1766) *Browne's Row*, afterwards *Rackham's Row*; and latterly *Snatchbody Row*, because when the stealing of dead bodies from their graves in the churchyard for the benefit of students in anatomy prevailed, the "Resurrectionists," as these men were called, concealed their booty in some old houses in this row, which have since been pulled down and warehouses erected on their site. Before the passing of the "Anatomy Act" the necessity of obtaining "subjects" by unlawful means rendered

the trade a very lucrative one to all who were brutal and daring enough to engage in it. Among the most noted Resurrectionists were Vaughan and Murphy. The former, originally a stone mason's labourer, was a fellow of dissolute and drunken habits. After committing depredations in various parts of the kingdom, he came down to Yarmouth, and taking a house in the above row, abstracted at least ten bodies before he was discovered; and his proceedings might never have been found out had he not behaved ill to a young woman, to whom he passed himself off as a bachelor. This was in 1827; and great excitement prevailed in the town when Vaughan was apprehended and committed to gaol. The London surgeons sent down a person to act on Vaughan's behalf, at an expence of £14; and they allowed Vaughan ten shillings a week during the twenty-six weeks he was in confinement here. Murphy, an Irishman, tall, stout, and strong, was considered the most expert of the gang. He was paid £12 12s. each for four subjects obtained at Yarmouth; but he also got into trouble, and the expences attending his liberation, provided by the London surgeons, amounted to £160. Murphy died in his bed, leaving his family well provided for; but Vaughan was ultimately transported. The stealing of a dead body was merely a misdemeanour, punished by a short imprisonment; but appropriating, at Plymouth, some of the clothes in which a dead body had been wrapped, he was prosecuted for felony and sent out of the country. In his evidence before a committee of the House of Commons, Sir Astley Cooper declared that "there was no person, whatever his situation in life might be, whose body after death, "if so disposed, he could not obtain."\* To prevent these grave proceedings for the future, lofty palisadoes were erected along the west side of the churchyard instead of the low brick wall already mentioned.

This row is immediately opposite the west end of St. Nicholas' church, and by standing a little within the row, a fine view of the west end of the nave is obtained. At the north-east corner of this row, fronting *White Horse Plain*, is a large house (now divided into two

\* A person in Dundee, some years since, when burying a relative, caused an apparatus to be affixed to the lid of the coffin, which communicated by wires with some gunpowder, so that upon any pressure the whole would explode.

houses with shops, No. 4 and 5), which in 1766 was described as a "capital messuage" in the possession of John Burton, Esq., water bailiff.\* In 1771 the above-mentioned house, and the extensive malt-houses on the north side of this row, which had also belonged to Burton, were conveyed to Christopher Eaton. The house was sold, in 1773, to John Daniel, jun., grocer; and the malthouses, which are extremely old, were at the same time purchased by Edmund Lacon, Esq., and are now attached to the brewery.†

Notes, No. 7, from *Rainbow Corner* to *White Horse Plain*, called *White Horse Row*. On the south side of this row, fronting the plain, is the old hostelry called the *White Horse*.‡ Portions of the north wall of this house, built of flint with stone dressings, exhibit marks of great antiquity. At the north-east corner of this row, and occupying the space between it and Row, No. 6, stands a large house, now divided into two occupations, No. 6 and 7, which in the 17th century was the property of Robert Harward, and afterwards of his son, Titus Harward,

\* He was appointed in 1766, and held that office until his death in 1789, when he was 80 years of age. He married Mary Ferrier, who died in 1785, aged 70. The trustees of her settlement were Robert Ferrier, Esq., of Starston in Norfolk, and Leonard Mapes, Esq., of Rollesby. Robert Ferrier Burton, the son of this marriage, married Edne (who died in 1793, aged 47), daughter of John Barber, and died in 1774, aged 57. Sarah, the daughter of John and Mary Burton, married in 1791 Daniel Durrant Scott of Ingham.

† The making of malt has been a considerable trade in Yarmouth for centuries, the soil in many parts of Norfolk being very favourable to the production of barley. Mention is made in old deeds and wills of malthouses in different parts of the town. In the 16th century it was usual for the corporation to purchase malt, and keep it "for the town's use," in anticipation of seasons of scarcity.

‡ This is a very ancient sign, the white horse having been a favorite device of the Saxons. Hengist and Horsa (both names signifying a horse, they according to the practice of the pagan Germans taking the name of a beast) bore a leaping white horse on a redfield. It again came into vogue on the accession of the House of Hanover; a white horse *saliant* occupying a conspicuous place in the shield of the electorate. The *White Horse*, Fetter lane, was a favorite London Inn for Yarmouth people in the days of coaches, before the introduction of railways. In the reign of Elizabeth the principal Inn at Boston was the *White Horse*.

from whom it passed to Thomas Ellys, who died in 1761, aged 63, having devised it to Thomas Ellys, the only survivor of nineteen children, who married Mary, widow of Samuel Hartley;\* and by him the house was sold. In 1802 it was purchased by Dr. John Jones, who here kept a school.† Dr. Browne, M.D., was a pupil.

*Kein*, No. 8, from *North Quay* to *White Horse Plain*, called *Ferry Boat Row*, because it was immediately opposite an ancient ferry over the Bure, connecting Yarmouth with the marshes on the west side of the river. At the south-west corner of this row there was a cottage for the ferryman, in which he resided until 1829 when the ferry was discontinued in consequence of the erection of a bridge. This cottage was on the ground floor; but now has a storey added to it. On the south side is a tenement which in 1777 was purchased by Luke Warner, a carter, who died in 1823, aged 103, retaining his faculties but slightly impaired to the last.‡ On the north side there is a very old tenement at present uninhabited, for which no owner can be found; and in 1866, being then in a dangerous state, it was partially pulled down by order of the authorities. Near the west end of this row on the north side, the first Wesleyan meeting house was erected. Wesley himself preached the opening sermon, and obtained more than £100 towards the expences. Adam Clarke, one of the most eminent of the Wesleyan ministers who was then on the Norwich Methodist circuit, was present.

\* "Nov. 22, 1735. News came of Capt. Hartley's death. The carpenter and "boatswain conspired to kill him. They ran away with the ship, but went on shore "for water, when the two cabin boys informed the governor of the place, who sent "guards down and secured them."—*Ives' M.S. Journal*.

† He printed a few pages of a *History of Great Yarmouth* in 8vo, but it went no further.

‡ Other instances of longevity (not otherwise mentioned in these pages) may be here recorded. Mary Cobb died in 1792, aged 96; Elizabeth Hunter in 1810, aged 102; in 1838 Serjeant John Wright, aged 110; in 1832 Jane Grey, aged 113; Eleanor Hannant, in 1864, aged 102; in 1866 Susannah Clarke, aged 96; in 1866 Mary Fuller, aged 90; Elizabeth Giles, 92; Elizabeth Froedick, 91; Edmund Clarke, 94; John Downing, 93; Mary Hose, 90; Mary Barker, 96; in 1867 Susannah Bowles, 96; in 1868 Judith Lawrence, 98; Elizabeth Scott, 92; J. Archer, 90 S. Crockett, 99; E. Trinham, 93; J. Harper, 91; in 1870 William Page, 93.

Mr. Lee, a corn merchant in the town, gave the site and a quantity of bricks. The cost was £350. This building is now converted into two dwelling houses, but the original circular-headed windows remain, as also a stone recording the date 1783, inserted in front.

METHODISM was introduced into Yarmouth by Thomas Olivers who informs us that, in 1754, he and a companion visited the town one Sabbath day. On their arrival they went to the Parish church, and after service there, Olivers attempted to preach in the Market place, but a tumult arising he had to retreat into a row. When he left the house in which he had taken refuge, he found women ranged at the doors on each side holding basins, the contents of which, not very clean, were dashed at him as he passed. Emerging from the row, Olivers and his companion were pelted in the streets until they had mounted their horses and ridden out of the town. In 1760 Howell Harris, a gentleman of eminent piety in the principality, who had for some years preached methodism, made an offer to government to raise men for the defence of the nation, which was accepted. A regiment of Welsh fusileers was formed, in which Harris was made a captain, and it so happened that he and his men were sent to Yarmouth. On his arrival he enquired what had been done to introduce methodism, and was informed of the ill-treatment which Olivers had received. Harris adopted the following device to obtain a hearing. He employed the town crier to give notice that at a particular hour a methodist would preach in the Market place. At the time named a savage mob assembled, armed with bludgeons and brick bats, who swore that if the preacher appeared he should never leave the town alive. Harris who was then exercising his men at a short distance, after dismissing them, mingled with the crowd and enquired the reason for such an assemblage. He was told that a methodist preacher had been expected, and that it was well he had not come, as he would certainly have been killed. Harris told them that by their leave he would address them himself, and a table having been procured, he mounted upon it, attired as he was in regimentals, and so astonished his hearers by the novelty of the exhibition, and so softened them by his eloquence, that they were induced to listen, and he was allowed to finish his discourse without

molestation. After this he frequently preached to the people, and thereby, says Wesley, a seed was sown of which there was great need, for Yarmouth was then "a large and populous town, as eminent for wickedness and ignorance as any sea port in England." In the following year Wesley himself came to Yarmouth, when "instead of the tumult which had been expected, all was quiet." The house in which he held forth was, he informs us, "more than filled," and his words left such an impression that a society was formed, whose numbers so increased as soon to require two regular preachers. This growth was too rapid for solidity, and divisions arose among the members. The right of private judgment was exercised to its fullest extent. Some of the most influential members fell away into Socinianism, Calvinism, and Antinomianism, while others became Anabaptists, so that when Wesley revisited the town in 1767 he found that "the society had come to nothing."\* On subsequent visits Wesley says he "found Yarmouth a cold, dull place;" and in 1774 he enters in his journal that "confusion was worse confounded;" and that "division after division had torn this once flourishing society to pieces." Still he did not despair, and in 1776 he again came to the town, where he obtained the use of the old Dutch church, and there he preached to crowded congregations; but his eloquence was unavailing, the society diminished in numbers until it was reduced to eight persons, and all preaching was then discontinued. Samuel King, a brazier, "an upright and sensible man," was the means of restoring Methodism to Yarmouth.† He invited all

\* In 1762 Whitfield came to Yarmouth, being then on his way to Rotterdam, and took occasion to preach in the open air on Priory plain, from *Rom. xiii. 14*. The populace behaved attentively and decently, "an indulgence not often shown" he says, "to any one before on a like occasion in this town." There being at the time a gentle shower, the preacher improved the occasion by praying that "God would water the souls of his hearers with grace, as he was then watering the earth with rain."

† King, in 1789, published *An impartial inquiry into the present state of Religion in England, recommended to the serious consideration of Christians of all Denominations*, in which he says "the greater part of the clergy neither preach nor live the gospel." "Nay," he adds, "it is to be feared that this was never the design, either of themselves, or of those who set them apart for what is called Holy Orders." "How striking is the contrast between the old pastors and the modern! Who now visits "from house to house, unless it be for tithes and offerings? not to enquire how

who would attend to assemble in his kitchen on Sunday evenings, where he addressed them; and in 1780 a house was hired near Fuller's hill, where itinerant preachers (among others James Ward of Bristol) occasionally held forth. Again a "schism" was formed "in the body," and great efforts were made to eject King from the pulpit. Wesley was called in to settle these disputes, and by his exertions he was able to record that "the combatants had laid down their arms, and had solemnly promised to live in peace." This however was only effected by King leaving the society, taking with him the most ardent of his adherents, to whom he once more preached in his own house, and there administered the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. After a time, finding his followers dwindling away, he returned to the main body, but was never again allowed to preach; and when Wesley visited Yarmouth for the last time, in 1790, he was able to say that "at length he had found the society at peace." Wesley died in 1791, aged 87. At the time the above chapel was built, Wesley, as he informs us "abhorred the thought of separation from the church; liking the old ways best." In a letter to Mr. Tripp of Lowestoft, written in 1789, he says that "there never were any meetings of the Methodists, either at Yarmouth or Norwich, by his advice or approbation, in church hours."\*

Robert Carr Brackenbury of Raithby hall, Lincolnshire, a man of property, a county magistrate, and an ardent follower of Wesley, visited Yarmouth in 1782, and attempted to preach in the open air, but a mob surrounded and greatly annoyed him, and a press-gang threatened to take him on board a tender. For his personal safety the constables conducted him to the residence of the mayor, who treated him with

"precious souls prosper, and whether the fear and worship of God is kept up in their families. Alas! there is no time for this; cards, plays, assemblies, and general visits (if not hunting and racing), leave no room—unhappy men!" Having reviewed the "National Church," which he asserted afforded "a sad spectacle of the state of religion in her;" he "turned his eyes to the several denominations of dissenters," and criticised them in turn with much severity, and as regards the Methodists he says (curiously enough considering his own career), "as the example and vigilance of St. Paul were not sufficient to restrain the preachers of his day; so neither have the example and care of Mr. Wesley;—which is evident from their impatience of restraint from him, and their restless endeavours to get congregations to themselves."

\* Wesley's *Journal*, Watmough's *History*, Southey's *Life*, &c.

courtesy, and detained him till he could be got privately to his lodgings. Much useful help to Methodism was obtained from Richard Thompson, who settled in Yarmouth. He was born in 1739 when his father was serving as a common soldier, and his early years were spent in camps and barracks while the army was employed in the German wars. When old enough he joined the marines and became drum-major; and when quartered at Chatham, his wife was the only woman allowed by General Mackenzie to open a shop for supplying the soldiers with such articles as they needed; and by these means he accumulated money at a rapid rate, until one day the thought struck him, "What will it profit me if I gain the whole world and lose my own soul?" From that time deep and serious thoughts took possession of him. In 1786 he obtained his discharge, and embraced Methodism. After passing some years in Scotland he visited Norwich, and impelled as he believed by a dream he came to Yarmouth, where finding the chapel trustees in need of money he advanced them £350 for an annuity of £28, and having settled in Yarmouth, died there in 1804, aged 64. The divisions which had distracted the society ceasing, the number of members rapidly increased, so that towards the close of the last century the above-named chapel became too small, and another in a more public and central position was erected, as we shall have occasion to record.

**Row, No. 9.** This is a short row leading from the *North Quay* to *Fuller's Hill*, and is called *Bessey's Half-Row*, because it adjoined a house at the south-west corner long the residence of a family of that name. The open space of ground lying between this house and the buildings which are on a line with the south side of Row, No. 11, was long known as *Bessey's Piece*. It is now occupied by the church and school of *St. Andrew*, designed by Mr. C. E. Giles, and erected principally through the exertions of the Rev. John Gott,\* (who became the first incumbent) assisted by the late Rev. Wm. Lucas of Flegg Burgh, for the benefit of the wherry-men and water-side population. The

\* Descended from Benjamin Gott, who in the last century established himself at Leeds, and became the recognized head of the woollen trade in Yorkshire. He and his descendants have long been distinguished for their unostentatious philanthropy.



church was consecrated by Dr. Pelham, Bishop of Norwich, on the 9th October, 1860.\* It was built to seat 400 persons. The organ was given by Miss Burdett Coutts, who also contributed largely to the building fund. Before the necessary amount could be obtained for the erection of this church, divine service was performed in a sail loft on the west side of the road, lent for the purpose by Richard Hammond, Esq. A sketch of this building is below.



**F**ULLER'S HILL is a roadway leading from *North Quay* to a point where *North Gate Road*, having crossed *White Horse Plain*, enters upon *Church Plain*. It is the highest part of Yarmouth and was therefore, as we have seen, the spot selected by the first inhabitants whereon to erect their houses. At what period the name was acquired does not appear; but it has existed for centuries, and an old family called Fuller possessed property there until very recently.†

\* Ministers—

Rev. John Gott, 1860; Rev. A. P. Holme, 1864; Rev. John W. Colvin, 1870.

† A member of the family was called *Scholastica*, a name sometimes assumed by those who enter religious houses.

Down to the seventeenth century persons of opulence resided on Fuller's hill. Sir THOMAS MEDOWE had a house there, which he rebuilt in 1642; and obtained leave to extend the walls so far as the former buttresses projected, and to enclose a piece of ground to the west. As Sir Thomas Medowe played a conspicuous part in municipal affairs during a most eventful period, it may not be uninteresting to give some account of his career. The family from which he descended lived in the vale of Wytnesham in Suffolk, where from the time of the Conqueror down to a very recent period they had a landed estate, of which Peter de Medowe, living in 1188, died seized. William Medowe of Coddendam who died in 1637, aged 78, added Wytnesham hall to his other possessions by marrying Grisell, daughter and heir of William Mynter, Esq. Their son, Thomas Medowe of Coddendam, married Elizabeth, daughter of John Lea, and settled in Yarmouth.\* Charles I., being "well informed of his ability," sent a letter to the corporation recommending them to elect Medowe to the office of bailiff, which they did in 1617, and again in 1629 and 1638. His son, afterwards Sir Thomas Medowe, also entered the corporation where, however, he soon allied himself with the party opposed to the proceedings of the crown. In 1634 he took an active part in resisting the obnoxious imposition of ship-money; and was sent both to Norwich and London to organize a resistance to it. Nevertheless he was named in the royal warrant as a commissioner for its levy; and in this capacity he attended the high sheriff, Sir John Wentworth, at the *King's Head* at Norwich,† in April, 1635, and paid over to him £1,000 in part of the rate made upon the inhabitants of Yarmouth.

On the breaking out of the civil war in 1642 the town declared for the Parliament, and active measures were taken by the inhabitants to defend themselves. In that year the Earl of Warwick, then lord high admiral, came to Yarmouth, and was entertained by the corporation.

\* These particulars are taken from a very full pedigree of the family, "corroborated by original documents," in the possession of the Rev. John Freeman, Rector of Ashwicken, Norfolk, and published in his *Life of the Rev. Wm. Kirby*, p. 14.

† The *King's Head* stood fronting the Market place, where Davey place now is. In the last century Sir Roger Kerrison had a house there.

In the following year Lord Grey of Werk addressed a letter to the bailiffs requesting to have eighty dragoons sent immediately to Cambridge, as that place was threatened by the king's forces; but Medowe and others waited upon his lordship at Norwich, and pointed out that the inhabitants being mostly fishermen would cut but a sorry figure on horseback; whereupon Lord Grey commuted his demand for a money payment. Later in the same year the inhabitants learned with dismay that the Earl of Manchester, who commanded in the associated counties, had appointed Colonel Russell to be military governor of the town. Urgent remonstrances were at once made against what they considered a breach of their ancient privileges, but nevertheless it was determined to give the colonel a courteous and hospitable reception, and Medowe's house on Fuller's hill was appropriated to his use; and there Col. Russell and his retinue continued for the space of ten days, at the end of which time an arrangement was made under which he withdrew. In 1645 further measures were taken for the defence of the town, and in that year the Earl of Lauderdale came down and was "elegantly entertained." In 1648 Medowe was elected to serve on a standing committee appointed to meet together to consider the best means to be adopted for the safety of the town; and he and many others then "openly declared that they would stand for the king and parliament according to the *National Covenant*." It being reported that Col. Fleetwood was coming to the town as governor, the bailiffs and justices waited upon him and courteously desired to see his commission. They then informed him that they would not admit any great company of soldiers into the town, nor allow any drum to be beaten, nor suffer him to exercise any power or authority whatsoever, so jealous were the inhabitants of their liberties; and Mr. Johnson was sent to London "about clearing the town of Collonell Fleetwood's power of being governor." In July of that year Medowe was sent to Bradwell to meet Col. Scroope, who held a commission for raising six hundred foot and fifty horse for the defence of the town; and although Medowe could not prevent Scroope from entering the place, where he also was "elegantly entertained," yet the colonel was prevailed upon not to execute his commission; the inhabitants undertaking to defend themselves. In August following Medowe

was deputed to wait upon Commissary General Ireton (Cromwell's son-in-law), then a guest of Sir Thomas Wentworth at Somerleyton, and confer with him as to an avowed intention to "ingarrison the town" against the wishes of the inhabitants. He could not prevail, and when Ireton decided upon coming hither, Medowe and many of the leading men rode out to meet him and escort him in. Endeavours were made to keep order in the town, in which Lieut.-Col. Cobbett commanding the troops was invited to concur. On every sabbath the constables of each ward with twelve or fourteen men and a patrol of soldiers traversed the town and entered all inns, alehouses, taverns, and tipling houses; and "all persons found therein or about the town absenting themselves from the service of God," were brought before the bailiffs for punishment. The soldiers took possession of the towers, and all other means of defence; but the billeting them upon the inhabitants and the levying a rate to pay the expenses proved very burthensome. All this had to be borne or the soldiers would have taken free quarters; and the officers requiring a place where they could meet and "sit together as a counsel of war," the Tolhouse hall was assigned to them for that purpose. On the 9th of September, 1648, Lord Fairfax entered the town with a large retinue and was well received; and on the 12th of the same month Colonel Barkstead's regiment was admitted to garrison the town.\* On the day of the Decollation of St. John the Baptist (29th August) in that year, Medowe had been selected to fill the office of prime bailiff, and on Michaelmas day he was sworn in. On the 31st of January following he received the astounding news that the king had been beheaded at Whitehall; and on the 6th of February, 1649, Medowe acquainted the corporation that he had received advices from Miles Corbet "forbidding them to proclaim Charles Stuart, Prince of Wales, or any other to be king;" and also an Act for altering the style of the court. As Medowe did not resign office, we may conclude that he acquiesced in the new order of things. Disappointed, however, with the results of the revolution, and

\* In after years the military governorship of North Yarmouth became a recognised sinecure. On the death of the Hon. Gerald Russell, in 1744, who then held this post, it was bestowed on Captain the Hon. Roger Townshend. Subsequently it was filled by Sir William Draper, so well known by his correspondence with Junius. The last governor was General Brooke.

disgusted with the parties in power, he sometime afterwards retired from the corporation, and we hear no more of him till the restoration, when he "tacked ship," as the sailors say, and became an ardent royalist. He again entered the corporation, and headed a deputation to Charles II., carrying with them, as a propitiatory offering, the arrears of the fee farm rent payable to the Crown, which the republicans had appropriated to other purposes. His zealous services were rewarded with knighthood; and he was named for the then intended new order of the Royal Oak; which order was, however, never constituted. In the following year he was chosen High Sheriff of Norfolk; and at this time his estate was estimated at £2,000 a year; a large sum in those days. It cannot be supposed that this "basking in the sunshine of royal favour" would be agreeable to his former associates who were now "out in the cold." Accordingly we find that one James Smith, a butcher, was fined £10 for calling the knight "a fool," and asserting that "he had killed many a bull of 30s. price with more brains than Sir Thomas had." In 1662 Sir Thomas Medowe was selected to fill the office of bailiff. Among the first acts of the triumphant royalists was the disownment of the Lord Henry Cromwell as high steward, and the election in his place of Hyde, who had been created Earl of Clarendon and Lord Chancellor. There was an ancient salary attached to the office which the corporation had neglected to pay, at which the chancellor had signified his displeasure, whereupon to conciliate the great man, Medowe this year dispatched Aldermen Bateman and Dunn to wait upon his lordship and present him not with the arrears only but with "a tun of claret" and "such other thing as a present," that the aldermen after consulting the borough members, should think fit.\* Before his year of office expired a ship arrived from Scotland filled with sick soldiers, the master bringing a letter from the Marquis of Hamilton requesting that they might be provided for until they could be sent to their homes; whereupon Medowe called "an assistance"† at the Tolhouse hall, and it was arranged that

\* The Lord Chancellor also claimed and received his "Lenten provision," namely half a hundred good lyng, two barrels of white and two barrels of red herrings.

† It was customary yearly to appoint a committee who should act as assistants, and advise the bailiffs or mayor on any emergency.

such as were then alive (for many had died on board) should be landed and lodged in some houses out of the North gate; and women were appointed to attend them. There was no system of billets in those days.\* The privy council in 1665 appointed Robert Clifton and Richard Bowers to seize upon all goods at Yarmouth embezzled from his majesty's navy; and in the same year they employed Sir Edmund Pooley to dispose of the prizes then lying at Yarmouth, and to examine the accounts of Sir Thomas Medowe who had required to be reimbursed for what he had expended, but in spite of whose care great embezzlements were suspected; and Sir Edmund was required to report "upon whom they do most rest;" and ultimately a prize agent was appointed.† In 1671 Sir Thomas Medowe again filled the office of bailiff. In the following September he, at the request of the corporation, wrote a letter to the Earl of Arlington, complaining of the "insolencies" committed by the Scotch soldiers then quartered in the town, for which no redress could be got from their commanders. While then in office he entertained the Bishop of Norwich, Lord Townshend, Lord Richardson,‡ Sir William D'Oyley, and the Dean of Norwich, who all came to Yarmouth to endeavour to arrange the differences between the corpora-

\* Shortly after more soldiers were sent from Holy Island by Sir Henry Vane, and Medowe was compelled to advance the money necessary to send them to their places of abode.

† *Harl. M.S.S.* Four persons were arrested and taken to London to answer for eight packs of wool and other goods.

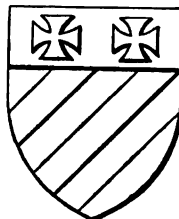
‡ Thomas, Lord Richardson, Baron of Cramond in Scotland, died in 1674. He was the grandson of Sir Thomas Richardson, who when Speaker of the House of Commons was made Chief Justice of the Common Pleas by Charles I. Elizabeth, granddaughter of the above lord (only sister and heir of William, the last Lord Richardson, who died at Catton in 1736, in his 21st year, *s.p.*), "a fine young lady, then about eighteen years of age," as described in the *Norwich Gazette*, married "Young Counsellor Jermy," only son of John Jermy of Bayfield in Norfolk. The Lords Richardson possessed extensive estates in Norfolk. That at Honingham, in the church of which pariah many of them are buried, passed by purchase to Charles Townshend, afterwards Lord Bayning, for many years member for Yarmouth, and he resided at the hall there. The dean at that time was Dr. Herbert Astley, a kinsman of Sir Jacob Astley and Sir Isaac Astley, both distinguished royalists. He married Barbara, daughter and heir of John Hobart of Weybread in Suffolk, only son of Sir John Hobart of Hales.

tion and the dean and chapter as to the appointment of a minister of the parish.\* Sir Thomas Medowe also provided an "entertainment extraordinary" for Sir Edward Turner, Speaker of the House of Commons, for which he was allowed £35. In 1682 Sir Thomas Medowe was once more elected bailiff, and when so in office he had personally to attend the king in council on the affairs of the town: Before quitting office he had the honor of receiving as a guest at his house on Fuller's hill the Earl of Yarmouth, when the latter came to the town to be sworn in as lord high steward.† The charter granted by Charles II. having altered the form of government to a mayor instead of two bailiffs, Sir Thomas Medowe was called upon to fill that office in 1684, in succession to George Ward (see p. 73). Notwithstanding all these public services, James II. in 1687 arbitrarily dismissed Sir Thomas Medowe from his alderman's place; and he had the honor of being at the head of the seventeen corporators who were so disposed of by the king. He died in the following year, and with him the family for a time became extinct in Yarmouth. Besides considerable house property in different parts of the town, Sir Thomas left large estates at Somerleyton, Herringfleet, Blundeston, and other places in Suffolk; and dying without male issue his large wealth devolved upon his two daughters and co-heirs; of whom Anne, died in 1708 unmarried, and was buried in Bradwell church, Suffolk; and Frances, the other daughter and sole executrix of her

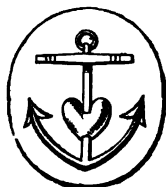
\* For the particulars and adjustment of this dispute, see *P. C.*, p. 173.

† During his year of office a squabble took place between Sir Thomas Medowe as prime bailiff and his colleague Nathaniel Symonds the junior bailiff, which eventually occupied the attention of the king in council. One of the evils of having two persons to execute the same office was the impossibility of their exercising equal power, the result being that the bailiff who was first named customarily had the principal direction of affairs. Symonds however thought it should be otherwise, for it appears that he "in a violent manner seized and forced his majesty's seal of the "admiralty out of the hands of Thomas Bradford, Esq., the person entrusted with "the custody thereof by Sir Thomas Medowe, who of right had the keeping of the "same; and did swear George England into the office of a justice of the peace against "the consent of Sir Thomas," whereupon Symonds and England had to appear before the privy council, the king himself being present, when Symonds was ordered to restore the seal to Sir Thomas Medowe, and England had for a time to relinquish magisterial honors.

father's will, married Thomas Hayes of Cradfield in Suffolk.\* Although entitled to bear arms, Sir Thomas Medowe frequently sealed with a merchant's mark combined with his initials. He bore bendy of six *or.* and *az.* on a chief of the second, two crosses pattée of the first (which were not the ancient arms of his family); and for a crest a cross pattée *or.* entwined by a serpent *ppr.*†



On the south side of *Fuller's Hill* and adjoining *Conge Street* towards the west, Sir Thomas Medowe had a brewery which he purchased of Augustine Blomefield,‡ and this was probably the oldest brewery in the town. In 1698 this property was conveyed to Christopher Brightin, beer brewer, who realized a considerable fortune. It does not appear that he bore arms; as he sealed with the device of an anchor piercing a heart.§



\* Sir William Cooke of Brome-hall, Norfolk, Bart., and W. Randall of Beccles, were named by Sir Thomas Medowe as supervisors of his will. This was a common practice in the seventeenth century. The supervisors were "to keep an eye upon the executors," and afford the latter the benefit of counsel and advice without incurring any responsibility; and for this the supervisors usually had a legacy.

† *Topographer and Genealogist*, vol. i., p. 281.

‡ He was son and heir of John Blomefield of East Dereham.

§ He was the son of Richard Brightin already mentioned (p. 125). At the Norfolk election in 1714, Richard Brightin and Christopher Brightin both voted for Sir Ralph Hare and Erasmus Earle. Christopher Brightin in 1721 filled the office of mayor, when a curious incident occurred. His worship wrote as usual to the admiralty to send down a vessel of war to guard the fishing boats when at sea; and accordingly the sloop *Hawke*, Captain Lloyd, arrived in Yarmouth Roads. The mayor requested her commander to come on shore, which he did and went to the *Cranes* tavern, "but would not wait upon Mr. Mayor though by him again requested," which "ill conduct" was complained of to the admiralty, and the members for the borough were requested to obtain redress. In 1734 Brightin subscribed £21 towards the purchase of the gold chain which is still worn by the Mayors of Yarmouth. He died in 1747, leaving two daughters his co-heirs. Virtue the elder married Barry Love, Esq.; and Elizabeth the younger married Samuel Wakeman, Esq., and died in 1743, aged 39, leaving a son named Brightin Wakeman.



The people of Yarmouth appear from an early period to have been addicted to beer; a taste derived from their Anglo-Saxon, Danish, and Norman ancestors. The ale consumed by them was however brewed without hops, and although some other bitters were used, it was not calculated to keep long. The hop is an indigenous plant; but its use was considered injurious. In 1425 an information was exhibited against a man "for putting an unwholesome kind of weed called an *hopp* into his brewing."\* In the reign of Henry VI. a petition was presented to Parliament against "that wicked weed called hops, which preserved beer, but destroyed those who drank it."† Rastell, in his *Collection of Entries*, states that an aleman brought an action against his brewer "for spoiling his ale, by putting therein a certain weed called a hop," and recovered damages. Even bluff King Hal in 1580 gave an injunction to his brewers "not to put any hops or brimstone into his ale;" but it was, however, in his reign that the virtue of hops became known and appreciated. In 1555 the corporation made an order that none should brew in the town unless by their appointment. In 1572 brewers were ordered to burn coal instead of wood; and in 1589 no victualler or innkeeper was allowed to sell any "strange beer" (as London porter had it existed would have been termed), and thus the "native article" was effectually "protected." At the same time great pains were taken that Yarmouth ale should be of "good stuff" and "wholesome for man's body." For this purpose "Tasters" were appointed by the corporation, without whose fiat first obtained no beer could be sold. The corporation also regulated the price according to the quality, and offenders against the ordinances were adjudged to the pillory on three market days. In the 14th century women were alone employed to brew; and hence the term "Alewives." If they failed to keep the assize they were threatened with the "tumbrel, trebucket, or castigatory." Before the use of hops in this country they had been extensively used in the Low Countries, whence we derive the word *beer*, which originally meant a liquor which had been hopped, in distinction to ale which was then unhopped; and from this period the trade of

\* *Harl. M.S.S.*, No. 980, fo. 279.

† Fuller's *Worthies*.

brewing appears to have greatly flourished, for we are told that at the commencement of the 16th century there were thirty-four breweries in Yarmouth. In 1630 John Harbottle endeavoured to "incorporate" all the breweries, for which he got a summary dismissal from the corporation, who a few years afterwards entertained the idea of taking the trade into their own hands and supplying the inhabitants with beer, as some town councils now supply water and gas; but the brewers were too strong for them.

The road over *Fuller's Hill* has from time to time been much lowered for the convenience of traffic, so that the houses on the south side, some of which are of considerable antiquity, are now elevated above it. It has already been mentioned that the oldest street in the town commenced from the crown of this hill and ran south, while immediately opposite, on the north side, there was a continuation of it until a junction was formed with *White Horse Plain*. This is now called *Fuller's Passage*. At the foot of the hill at the west end there was an old public house called the *Sawyer's Arms*, which was destroyed by fire in 1841, and the new house erected on the site and now called the *Albion*, was set back eight feet in order to widen the road, which at that end was then very narrow. In a modern house on the north side (No. 3) Dr. Alfred Impey commenced practice in Yarmouth as a physician, and attained considerable eminence. He died in 1852 at Cove hall, Suffolk, the residence of his father-in-law, William Everett, Esq., at the early age of 38. There is a mural monument to his memory in the south aisle of St. Nicholas' church, with an inscription on brass; erected "by friends who appreciated his worth and abilities." At the south-east corner stood an old house which in 1751 was the property of John Hurry, and was occupied by Martha Palmer, widow. It was rebuilt as two dwelling houses in 1777 by John Vout, liquor merchant, and they have now been partially pulled down in order to widen the approach to *Fuller's Hill*. Adjoining to the south, fronting *Church Plain*, is a house and shop formerly of Benjamin Sherrington, ironmonger, and afterwards of his son, James Norton Sherrington, who here made a collection of the works of the elder Crome, which after his death were

dispersed, and brought large prices.\* He died at an early age. There is a portrait of him on stone from a drawing by Lane.

*Fuller's Hill* leads to *Church Plain*, an open space of ground forming an irregular square, bounded by the churchyard on the north side. *North Gate Road* runs across this plain from *White Horse Plain* to the *Market Place*. The houses which now adjoin the churchyard were originally merely stalls set up for the sale of goods and eatables on church festivals, and such-like occasions.† Gradually these stalls became

\* John Crome, the Norfolk Hobbima, now better known as Old Crome, was the son of a poor weaver, and was born in a small and disreputable public house at Norwich in 1769. At first he was an errand boy to a doctor, but soon changed this uncongenial employment; for, having thus early exhibited the bias of his mind, he was apprenticed to a house and sign painter. He lodged with another apprentice who had also a rude taste for art, and the two lads drew and painted together; and the progress made by Crome was such as to attract the notice of Sir William Beechy, R.A., who was kind to him. Marrying early in life, Crome became so poor that in order to gain a livelihood he was compelled to paint sugar ornaments for confectioners, to clip his cat's tail to make his brushes, and to use pieces of bed-tick and old aprons instead of canvas. An order for a public-house signboard was at this time eagerly accepted and speedily executed. One of these "The two Brewers," painted in 1790, remains to this day, carefully preserved at the Poekthorpe brewery in Norwich. But poverty cannot suppress a man of genius; Crome became a master of his art; and learned how to show the beauty of the simplest objects in nature. A few old trees, some broken ground, a leafy dell, the brink of a clay pit, a dilapidated cottage, or a sketch of heath were his favorite subjects. These he clung to through life; and never made the fatal mistake of changing his natural for a grander or more imposing style. Founding the Norwich School of Artists, he became its president, and it did good service by originating in 1805 the first provincial exhibition of pictures in England. Crome died in 1821, aged only 52, and in the same year one hundred and eleven of his paintings were exhibited, beginning with "The Sawyers," down to a fine wood scene painted within a month of his departure. Since his death his pictures have steadily and latterly enormously increased in price, a sure proof of the merit of the painter. Personally Crome was much esteemed.


"His works remain the gems of art,

"His worth engraved on many a heart."

For a considerable part of his life, Crome, for the purpose of giving drawing lessons (which, with shame be it spoken, formed his principal means of support), made a weekly journey to Yarmouth, where he was gladly received by all who had any taste for art, and was a constant and welcome guest at the tables of Mr. Dawson Turner, Mr. Paget, and Mr. Bracey. There is an engraved portrait of him.

† The inhabitants of these booths or houses originally took their name from the locality. Thus we find that in 1292 John atte Churchyard (that is residing by the

wooden booths; ultimately houses encroaching upon the churchyard, from which they were not divided by any wall until 1811, and upon the plain in front, the owners occasionally obtaining leave from the corporation to bring out their frontages.\* The second house at the west end is a public house called the *Saracen's Head*,† formerly the *Cart and Horse*.

 row without a number leading from the *Church Trees* to *Priory Plain*, formed part of the south boundary of the Priory. Extending from this row to the churchyard is the *PARSONAGE HOUSE*, which was erected in 1718 by the corporation, partly upon the site of an old and dilapidated house then pulled down, which had been the residence of the Minister of the Parish after the reformation, and was connected with the old guildhall and the priory. The new building is depicted on Corbridge's map and is there called "the corporation's house for the curate." Late in the last century, during the incumbency of Dr. Cooper, some large rooms were added at the north end of the original house. In 1848 the town council passed a resolution to sell the Parsonage house, and apply the proceeds to municipal purposes; but in consequence of a strong remonstrance on the part of many of the principal inhabitants, the consent of the lords of the treasury was withheld. A subscription was then entered into by means of which the house was purchased of the town council and annexed to the living. After the reformation, when the duty of providing for the spiritual

churchyard) complained of William de Walsyngham that he had sold him a false *caul* for 6d. of silver, and he was adjudged "to have the pillory for his falseness." This is an instance of the superstitious belief which then prevailed in the virtues of a child's *caul*, which was supposed to protect the possessor from drowning, and many other evils. It still exists in the remote parts of Ireland. See *Carleton's Tales*.

\* All these houses ought to be purchased and removed, and the view of the church thrown open.

† The *Saracen's Head* is an old (and was at one time a favorite) sign. It originated with the conflicts with the Saracens, once a matter of great national interest. When our countrymen came home from these wars they depicted the Saracens with huge and terrible faces; and the "Saracen's Head" was set up as a sign. Osborne, writing in 1701, says that—

"At the *Saracen's Head* they pour'd in ale and wine,  
"Till their faces were made to resemble the sign."

wants of the parish devolved upon the dean and chapter, they appointed a "Minister of the Parish," who was in fact their perpetual curate.\* This privilege, we have seen, they allowed to be exercised by a layman; and at a subsequent period the corporation obtained from the dean and chapter the power of appointing ministers, hence the duty of providing a residence. Probably there is no house in Yarmouth in which so much hospitality has been continuously exercised as at the parsonage. Its first occupant was the Rev. Thomas Macro, D.D., fellow of Caius' college, Cambridge, and Rector of Hockwold-cum-Wilston in Suffolk. On his induction the corporation provided him with two scarlet hoods, two black hoods, and a new surplice. He was a learned man and a popular preacher; and several of his sermons were published. He possessed an extensive library, especially rich in divinity, and comprising a large number of early printed books (many in black letter), from the presses of Paris, Basel, Cologne, Antwerp, Geneva, Lyons, Frankfort, Rome, Metz, Zurich, Venice, Amsterdam, and other places, many of which he presented to St. Nicholas' church.† There had always been, from the earliest times, a collection of books preserved in the church for the use of the clergy. Thomas Cobald in 1379 bequeathed a missal, two vestments, and a chalice to St. Mary's altar in St. Nicholas' church, so that Martin Wodesyde, the chaplain, might keep them in his aumbry "to celebrate at the said altar" during his life.‡ Those in existence at the time of the reformation being chiefly missals and works on divinity, were for the most part destroyed. Another collection was formed; for Dean Davis, writing in 1689, frequently mentions in his journal that he passed the day in the vestry, which probably he would not have done

\* By the 31 and 32 Vic. c. 117, the name of perpetual curate was abolished and that of vicar substituted.

† He had also a valuable collection of autographs, most of which became the property of the late Dawson Turner, Esq., and are now in the British museum. The Spelman M.S.S., comprising more than one hundred volumes, were in the collection of Dr. Macro. They were purchased by the late Hudson Gurney, Esq., and are now at Keswick. The Bardolf pedigree mentioned at p. 91, is in No. 121, p. 8.

‡ He also gave to the high altar "a wey of salt" and his "best holiday vestment," there to be used as long as it would last. He was bailiff in 1349. The name is probably the same as Cobbold.

had there not been books there. This vestry was a room having a fireplace in it, at the north-west corner of the north aisle, and was not removed until 1846. In 1708 an Act of Parliament was passed for the encouragement of church libraries, which recites that "in many places the provision of the clergy is so mean that the necessary expense of books for prosecution of their studies, cannot be defrayed by them." The present collection, for the most part, was presented by Dr. Macro. Swinden, writing in 1772, enumerates 175 works then "in the library of St. Nicholas' church." The oldest printed book was *Pet. Martyr in Romanos*, 1468; and the latest, *Goulartii Apophthegmatum Sacrorum Loci Communes*, 1692. Amongst the books is a copy of Cranmer's



Bible, black letter, 1641, which, no doubt, was sent to St. Nicholas' church in compliance with the order of Henry VIII., that every parish should have a copy of the scriptures; and a Roman missal, in excellent preservation, printed at Venice in 1547; there is also the Book of Esther, beautifully written in Hebrew upon a long roll of vellum, with pictorial illustrations of the principal events in the history recorded. These books were kept in the vestry above mentioned, which was approached by stairs, as seen in the annexed engraving.\*

Dr. Macro was the son of Thomas Macro, who resided in Cupola house, Bury St. Edmund's,† where he acquired a large fortune as a grocer and died in 1737, aged 88, having married Susan, only daughter of the Rev. John Cox, Rector of Risby, descended from Dr. Richard Cox, Bishop of Ely, tutor to Edward VI. He possessed a share in Will's coffee house in Cornhill, London, where Dryden and

\* When the editor filled the office of churchwarden in 1829, finding these books in a sad state, he caused them to be repaired, and a book-case made for their reception, in which they are still preserved. Subsequently a new catalogue was compiled by the Rev. Bowyer Vaux when Mr. F. Worship was churchwarden.

† The house was so called because at the top of it he erected a cupola in 1693.

the wits of his day were accustomed to assemble. Nichol, in his *Literary Recollections*, says that the minister's brother, Dr. Cox Macro, an eminent physician in London, applied to a friend for an appropriate motto, who suggested *Cocks may crow*, which is nearly as good as that of *Quid rides* suggested to a tobacconist who had set up his carriage. Nichol doubts whether this family were entitled to arms, but it is certain that the doctor bore them, for a shield—charged with two bars wavy and in chief a lion's head crowned, is sculptured on the slab which covers his remains in St. Nicholas' church. The crest is a lion's head



crowned; and the arms of Macro impale *arg.* a chev. *as.* between three talbots' heads *sa.* and on a chief *as.*, three mullets pierced *arg.* for Hall; the doctor having married Maria Hall, who died in 1724, aged 33, in giving birth to an only son, Thomas Macro, who graduated at Caius' college, Cambridge, but died in 1746, aged 23, unmarried. Dr. Macro died in 1743, aged 59, and with his son the name became extinct in Yarmouth.\* The Latin epitaphs to the memory of Dr. Macro and his wife are printed by Swinden,

p. 869. There is a portrait of him in his robes as a Doctor of Divinity in the possession of the Love family, who are descended from his daughter.

Dr. Macro was succeeded by the Rev. Kenwick Prescott, D.D., Prebendary of Norwich, Master of Oatharine hall, Cambridge, and Rector of Balsham in Cambridgeshire; but the presentation having been made by the dean and chapter contrary to the wishes of the corporation, the latter testified their dissatisfaction by withholding the customary yearly gratuity of a guinea for a new hat; and what was of more importance refused, at first, to allow the incumbent to occupy the parsonage. He consoled himself by marrying, in 1744, Mary, daughter of Robert Appleyard, who at that time kept the *Wrestlers' Inn*, on the Church plain. He resigned the living in 1750; and died in 1779, and was buried at

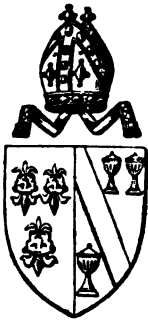
\* Alderman Macro purchased an estate at Norton in Suffolk, which he left to his son, Cox Macro, who died in 1767, leaving a daughter Mary, who married William Staneforth, Esq., who died in 1786; and the heiress of this family married John Patteson, Esq., sometime M.P. for Norwich, and was the mother of the late John Staneforth Patteson, Esq., of Norwich, who died in 1823, aged 49.

Cambridge.\* He was followed by the Rev. Samuel Salter, D.D., a son of the Rev. Samuel Salter, D.D., Prebendary of Norwich and Archdeacon of Norfolk.† He resigned on being appointed Master of the Charter house in 1751, and was succeeded by the Rev. John Butler, D.D., who became successively Bishop of Oxford and Hereford. The suavity of his manners had such a charming effect in producing harmony among his parishioners, that the corporation presented him with the freedom of the borough, and repaid all the money which the doctor had expended in repairing and "beautifying" the Parsonage house.‡

Dr. Butler was succeeded by the Rev. John Manclarke, who was at first permitted to reside in the Parsonage house, but had soon notice to quit in consequence of a dispute between him and the corporation. The latter having the right of appointing the parish clerk, claimed also the custody of the parish registers. This was resisted by the incumbent, and a case having been submitted to Sir Fletcher Norton and Mr. Dunning they decided in his favor; and the corporation then allowed Mr. Manclarke to occupy the house until his death in 1770, at the early age of 38, leaving two infant sons.§

\* He bore *sa.*, a chev. betw. three owles *arg.* His grandson, the Rev. Charles Kenwick Prescott, born 1786, was Rector of Stockport.

† He died in 1766. There were six prebendal stalls in Norwich cathedral. The third from the archdeacon's on the north side of the choir was called the Yarmouth stall (*Prebenda Yarmouth*). When incumbent he published a volume of Moral and Religious Aphorisms.



‡ He is said to have earned his elevation by his services to the whigs (see *P. C.*, p. 183), and during the first American war his writings in support of the crown, under the signature of Vindex, attracted the favorable attention of Lord North. He married for his second wife, a sister and one of the co-heirs of Sir Charles Vernon. He died in 1802; and in the *Gentleman's Magazine*, vol. 76, there is an engraving of his monument on which are his arms—*gu.* a bend betw. three covered cups *or.* He published a volume of *Select Sermons*. There is an engraved portrait of him.

§ The name had been of long continuance in Yarmouth. Henry Manclarke was admitted a freeman in 1627 on producing his father's burgess letter. In 1647 the Widow Manclarke had permission to set out a porch with a pale in front of her house in the Market place. Thomas Manclarke, who died in 1727, aged 64, married Sarah Manning, daughter of William Coulson of Swanton Abbots (who died in



In 1771 Dr. Smyth, Prebendary of Norwich, was appointed ; and although the corporation allowed him to occupy the Parsonage house, they withheld the customary guinea for a hat for ten years, and then paid the money in a lump. He resigned the living in 1781, and was succeeded by the Rev. Samuel Cooper, D.D.,\* during whose incumbency 1704, aged 33), and by her had three sons. Thomas the eldest died in 1763 leaving an only child, Robert Manclarke, who died intestate and s. p. He appears to have been a considerable merchant. Ives, sen., has these entries in his journal. "27 Nov. 1735. Blew very hard at south last night. A fleet of Hollanders sailed ; "and this morning it blew a very hard gale of wind, and they put back. William "Allman coming for the harbour stroke upon the bar and was drove on the north ham, "and lost both ship and cargo. He was laden with malt by Mr. Thomas Manclarke." "Dec. 1. I walkt down to the haven's mouth to see Mr. Allman's ship." "Jan. 10, "1736. Daniel Holdridge's ship put up for sale, and was bought by Mr. Manclarke "for £210." "March 27, 1737. Blew a gale of wind at S.E. A messenger came from "Horsey, and brought word that Henry Mayes and nine sail of ships were drove "ashore about Winterton with very rich cargoes." "30th. Rode down to Waxham "to see the ships that were ashore." "April 4. Mr. Mayes' ship condemned and cried "to be sold to-morrow by way of auction." "April 5. Mayes' ship was sold to "Thomas Manclarke for £29 10s." Colman Manclarke the second son, who filled the office of mayer in 1770, died in 1790, aged 71, also intestate and s. p. The above-named John Manclarke was the third and youngest son. He married Catharine, daughter of Austin Palgrave of Pulham St. Mary Magdalene. Thomas, their eldest son, was Registrar of the Admiralty court at Great Yarmouth, from 1757 to 1783. He died in 1789 and was buried at Pulham. Austin Palgrave Manclarke, their second son, who became heir general of the family, married Mrs. Cook of Rockland, and left two sons, the Rev. William Palgrave Manclarke of Pulham, whose son, William Palgrave Manclarke, is now representative of the family, and Richard Beatniffe Manclarke, Esq., of Malvern. The Rev. Richard Palgrave Manclarke, Vicar of S. James', Barrow-in-Furness, is eldest son of the latter. The Manclarkes represent the Palgraves of Pulham, who claimed to be the nearest in blood to the Palgraves of Norwood Berningham in Suffolk. Thomas Palgrave of Pulham was sheriff of Norwich, and represented that city in Parliament ; and died in 1726, aged 84, and was buried at Pulham. They bore *az.* a lion ramp. *arg.*, with a crescent for difference. Augustine Palgrave of Norwood Berningham was knighted by Charles I. ; and John, his son, was created a baronet in 1641. He however went over to the republicans, and having been made a freeman of Yarmouth was returned to Parliament for the borough in 1660 by the adherents of Cromwell in the corporation, but the election was set aside. Upon the death of Sir Richard Palgrave at Norwich in 1732, unmarried, the title became extinct.

\* We shall have occasion in a future part of this work to give some account of the Cooper family, and of their descent from and alliances with the Nauntons, Pastons, Bransbys, Redes, Lovicks, and other families.

the parsonage was the scene of great hospitality, especially to literary men. Lord Chedworth, during his annual visits to Yarmouth, was a frequent guest. Writing in 1790 he says "I was quite charmed with Dr. Cooper during my last visit to Yarmouth. He is, as I believe, a thoroughly good-hearted man." Dr. Parr was also a frequent guest. Meeting one day Mr. Robert Bransby Cooper at the table of the Duke of Sussex, the doctor said to him, "I knew your father well, Sir. "He was one of the most hospitable of men, and many a time have I "visited him at Yarmouth where he almost kept open house. He "thought himself a scholar ;—but that he was not." This might have been true as compared with the scholarship of Parr ; yet Cooper had been first wrangler of his year. Among other distinguished visitors, Dr. Cooper had on one occasion the honor of entertaining George Canning, who visited Yarmouth with his uncle, Dr. Leigh. Lord Chedworth was of the party ; and although Mr. Canning had not commenced his political career, he had acquired so high a literary fame that all were eager to hear him converse. Unfortunately the discipline of a Hundred-house of Industry\* became the uncongenial subject of conversation, but enough was said by Canning to induce Lord Chedworth, with more than ordinary enthusiasm, to declare that he "was a wonderful young man." During the incumbency of Dr. Cooper, his son, who became so celebrated as Sir Astley Cooper, then a very young man, was accustomed to pass his vacations at the parsonage, and to take part in the discussions at his father's table ; saying things of the most irritating nature, in order to excite the ire of contending parties. Dr. Cooper died in 1800, aged 60. The Rev. E. M. Price and the Rev. C. Spurgeon were "assistants" to Dr. Cooper in 1781.

The next occupant of the Parsonage house was the Rev. Richard Turner, B.D., of whom we shall have occasion to speak farther on. His society was much courted by literary men ; among whom may be mentioned Dr. Parr, Lord Chedworth, Dr. Watson, Bishop of Landaff,

\* Dr. Cooper was a county magistrate, and had taken great interest in establishing the Heckingham house of Industry ; and like other good conversationalists he was inclined to exact a larger share of attention than was at all times agreeable to his hearers. He published a book on the Poor Laws.

Dr. Paley, the Rev. Wm. Leigh, Dean of Hereford (then residing at Plumpstead), the Rev. Norton Nicholls,\* and many others. Crabbe, the poet, submitted his earliest works to Mr. Turner (to whom he was curate at Sweffling in Suffolk), and had always implicit reliance on his judgment.†

On the resignation of Mr. Turner in 1835, the Hon. and Rev. Edward Pellew was appointed to succeed him. Mr. Pellew was the fourth and youngest son of Admiral Lord Viscount Exmouth, and brother of the Dean of Norwich.‡

\* This accomplished scholar was for more than forty years Rector of Lound and Bradwell, but resided at Blundeston, at a spot remarkable for its beauty, where he was frequently visited by Gray the poet, whose favorite haunts were long known as "Gray's seat" and "Gray's oak." There, in 1799, Mr. Nicholls entertained Lord Duncan and the officers of the fleet, immediately after the battle of Camperdown; on which occasion the trees on an island at the extremity of the lake were decorated with variegated lamps, and a brilliant display of fireworks took place. He died in 1809, aged 67. Blundeston house, sometime called Sydnors from the ancient proprietors, was subsequently occupied by Nicholas Bacon, Esq., next brother to Sir Edmund Bacon, Bart.; of whom it was in 1831 purchased by the late Charles Steward, Esq. Page's *Suffolk*, p. 306; and *Gent. Mag.*, 1810, part ii., p. 346.

† Crabbe was born at Aldborough in Suffolk (where his father was a custom-house officer), and was intended by his parents for the dissenting ministry, but preferring surgery he was apprenticed to Mr. Page of Woodbridge, whose daughter married Alderman Wood, and became the mother of Lord Chancellor Hatherley. Having by his poetical talents attracted the attention of Burke, he was enabled to study for the church, and was ordained by Dr. Yonge, Bishop of Norwich, in 1781, and soon afterwards was appointed by the Rev. Richard Turner to be his curate at Sweffling. Although presented by Lord Chancellor Thurlow with two small livings in Dorsetshire, he did not reside upon either, nor at Sweffling, but successively at Parham and Glemham in Suffolk; non-residence being too much the practice among the clergy in those days. Once a week in every year, while Crabbe held the curacy of Sweffling, Mr. Turner paid him a visit; and this was always a period of peculiar enjoyment to the poet, who fully appreciated the taste and judgment of his Rector, and was wont on those occasions to submit to him the productions of his pen. "He considered his judgment," says Crabbe's biographer, "a sure safeguard and reliance in all cases practical and literary." "The Parish Register," with some other pieces, were submitted to Fox, and were the last compositions of their kind that engaged the attention of that great man. In the preface to them, in 1807, Crabbe acknowledged the obligations he was under to Mr. Turner, "a critic," says he, "for whom every poet should devoutly wish." Upon his best known poem, "The Borough," Crabbe obtained Mr. Turner's opinion, which "on the whole was highly favorable," and it was published in 1810. Crabbe died at Trowbridge in 1832, aged 77.

‡ He had been Vicar of Christowe, in Devonshire where the Pellews are seated. He married in 1826 Marianna, eldest daughter of John Winthrop, Esq., M.D., by



**Henry Mackenzie, D.D.,**

Bishop Suffragan of Nottingham.

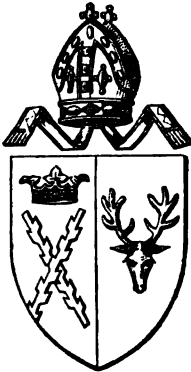


The living again becoming vacant by resignation in 1844, the Rev. Henry Mackenzie was appointed. He married Antoinette, daughter of Sir James Henry Turing, Bart., by Antoinette his wife, daughter of Sir Alexander Ferrier, K.G.H., British Consul at the Hague.\* In 1846 Mr. Mackenzie resigned the incumbency on being presented to the Vicarage of St. Martin's in the Fields, vacated by the Rev. Sir Henry Duckinfield, Bart.†

The living was next conferred on the Rev. George Hills, who became the first Bishop of British Columbia in 1859,† when the

Mary Horton his wife, daughter of Gamaliel Lloyd, Esq., who was Mayor of Leeds in 1779. On resigning the incumbency of Yarmouth, Mr. Pellew went to reside at Bury St. Edmund's, and died at Crow hall, Mansfield, in 1869, having preached two sermons on the previous Sunday. The admiral, his father, filled the office of High Steward of Yarmouth for about a year before his own death. His son and successor, the second viscount, visited Yarmouth in the same year, and proceeded in his yacht to St. Petersburg, being accompanied by his brother, the incumbent.

\* Sir J. H. Turing succeeded to the baronetcy in 1832 on the death of Sir Robert Turing, who for many years resided at the castle of Banff. In 1848 Mr. Mackenzie published, for private distribution, *The Lay of the Turings, a Sketch of Family History*. The arms of Turing are—*or*. on a bend *gu.*, three boars' heads of the first; and for a crest, a hand *ppr.* holding a helmet with the visor up.

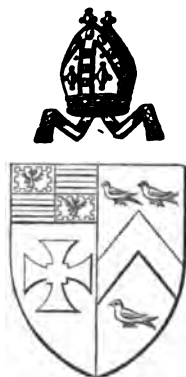


† He was the last of his race, although the first baronet, who was the eldest son of the celebrated colonel in the Parliamentary army, was the father of twenty-four children, of whom nine were sons. Mr. Mackenzie resigned the Vicarage of St. Martin's on being presented to the Rectory of Tydd St. Mary in Lincolnshire, which he exchanged for that of South Collingham, in Nottinghamshire, and the Sub-Deanery of Lincoln. In 1858 he was made Prebendary of Leighton Ecclesia in Lincoln cathedral, being the same stall which had been held by the celebrated George Herbert, and in 1869 he was consecrated Bishop Suffragan of Nottingham, being the first after the lapse of two hundred years, that order having been created by the 26 Henry VIII., c. 14, and revived by the 1 of Elizabeth, which remains unrepealed.

‡ The colonies of British Columbia and Vancouver's Island were constituted a bishop's see on the 12th January, 1859. Dr. Hills is the eldest son of Rear-Admiral Hills of Aahen hall, Essex (by Diana his wife, third daughter of Thos. Hammersley, Esq., of Pall Mall), who died in 1850, aged 72. Admiral Hills was the only surviving

Rev. Henry Ralph Nevill, the present vicar was appointed. He is an Honorary Canon of Norwich cathedral.\*

At the south-west corner of Priory row is a house vested in the corporation, and appropriated as a residence for the parish clerk, the municipal body having had, since the reformation, the right of appointing to that office, which was formerly usually filled by some one who had previously been a member of the corporation.† Until 1827 the



son of Lieut. William Hills, R.N., of Buckland, Kent, who perished when in command of the *Mutine*, and grandson of Admiral John Barker, and nephew of Capt. John Hills, R.N., who died at Jamaica, while commanding the *Hermione*, in 1794. The arms of Hills are *arg.*, a chev. between three martlets *sa.*; and the arms assumed for the see of British Columbia are *arg.*, a St. Cuthbert's cross *gu.*, in chief quarterly 1st and 4th a stag's head erased within a bordure embattled *gu.* (for Coutts), and 2nd and 3rd *or.*, three bars *az.* (for Burdett), the arms in chief being introduced in honour of the founder of the bishopric, Miss Burdett Coutts. There is something appropriate, remarks Bishop Hills, "in the connection of the cross with the head and antlers of the noblest of the wild animals which abound in the hunting grounds of the North American Indians, to whom the Gospel was sent."

\* The principal emoluments of the living arise from the "offerings of the parishioners, which anciently were collected at Christmas, Easter, Whitsuntide, and the Feast of the Dedication; but by the 2 and 3 Ed. VI., c. 13, all were to be paid at Easter only; and in the 16th and 17th centuries the constables went round to collect 2d. from every person who had not made an offering. It was formerly the custom for the minister to sit in the vestry daily during Easter week, "in his canonicals," for the purpose of receiving the offerings of the parishioners. Since the removal of the vestry, already mentioned, the minister has sat in the Parsonage house for the purpose.

The ancient decorations mentioned at p. 44 as having been recently discovered in St. Nicholas' church, have been faithfully lithographed in colour by Kell Brothers, London, for the Transactions of the Royal Institute of British Architects, and it is by their kind permission that the plate is allowed to appear in this work.

† John Holden, a common councilman, was appointed in 1719; John Nash, a common councilman, in 1760, and resigned in 1785, being then 87 years of age, and on account of his infirmities he was allowed to occupy the clerk's house for the remainder of his life. He was succeeded by Richard Pitt, son of Thomas Pitt, Esq., who had been mayor. When Richard Miller, an alderman, was appointed he resigned his gown. David Absolon, a common councilman, was elected in 1811. The parish clerk had apartments in the old guildhall until it was demolished in 1717.

corporation paid an annual salary to the parish clerk; but in that year great reductions were made in consequence of the debt incurred in opposing the Lowestoft Navigation Bill, and it was then abolished.

Adjoining and to the south of the east end of the Priory hall is a new building, erected in 1853, for the purposes of a Parochial library, Reading room, and Museum.\*

Between the precincts of the Priory and the Fisherman's hospital is an open place called *Priory Plain*. Here it has been customary every Saturday to hold a market for the sale of cattle and live stock, and hence it has been vulgarly called *Hog Hill*. The upper, or eastern part, was formerly called *Pudding Yard*; and on the north side, adjoining the boundary wall of the priory, there were some wretched alms houses now demolished. Formerly, adjoining the plain on the north side, there was a public house called the *Maid's Head*.† It was subsequently called the *Neptune*, and was purchased in 1757 by Mr. William Browne of William Fodder, maltster. There is now only a small beer shop called the *Pig and Whistle*.‡

\* From a design of Mr. J. H. Hakewill, by whom the Priory hall was restored. Many of the objects of interest in this museum were duplicates sent from the United Service collection, through the influence of W. Stirling Lacon, Esq.

† The *Maid's Head* or the *Maidenhead* is an old sign. The family of Parr assumed as a badge a maiden's head couped below the breasts, vested in ermine and gold, the hair and temples encircled with a wreath of red and white roses. Queen Catherine Parr used this device, issuing out of a Tudor rose. An heraldic maid's head was the crest of Parr, Lord Northampton, who was sent to Norwich to suppress the rebellion under Kett. His success made him popular, and it is probable that the large and once fashionable hotel at Norwich, the *Maid's Head*, took his crest as a sign.

‡ *Pig and Wassail*—the latter being the name of the bowl used at drinking bouts. Some persons claim for this sign a Danish origin, and contend that it is derived from *Pige-washail*—our lady's salutation; but *piga*, in Anglo-Saxon, means a girl (hence Peggy, a little girl), so that more probably it really means the sailor's favorite toast of "a lass and a glass." "Pigs may whistle," says an old Scotch proverb, "but they hae an ill mouth for it;" applied to any one attempting to do that for which nature has not adapted him. "Please the pigs," says Southey, is merely a corruption of "please the pix," a silver vessel, the holiest of utensils in the Roman Catholic church, or another way of saying D.V.



In the house now occupied by Mr. C. S. D. Steward on Priory plain, General Garth resided in 1794.

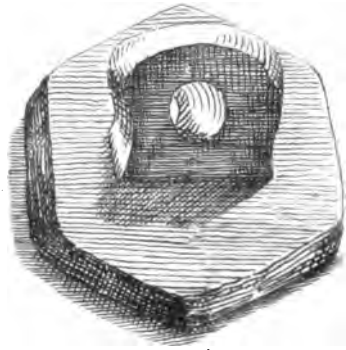
The adjoining house to the east was long the residence of Mr. John Freame Ranney, solicitor, clerk to the magistrates for the Hundred of East Flegg,\* who died in 1844, aged 67. He left a valuable collection of engravings.† He married Sarah, daughter of the Rev. W. Roberts of Earl's Colne, by Sarah his wife (born Clarke), widow of William Jacobson, by whom she was the mother of the present Bishop of Chester. Mrs. Ranney died in 1851; her sisters, Elizabeth and Susannah, resided in Southtown, and died unmarried at the respective ages of 89 and 90.

William Roberts was Steward of the Corporation in 1560.‡ Margaret, his sister and sole heir, married Simon Smyth of Winston in Norfolk, grandson of Sir Thurston Smyth of Oratfield in Suffolk, who married Willoughby, daughter of Edward Brews, fourth son of Sir John de Brews of Wenham in Suffolk. Mr. Roberts held the Manor of Burgh Castle and considerable estates in Norfolk and Suffolk, which by the above marriage passed to the Smyths, and were enjoyed by William Roberts Smyth, the grand nephew of William Roberts. Smyth bore barry, wavy of eight, *arg.* and *as.* on a chief *gu.*, three barnacles *or.* Brews bore *erm.*, a lion ramp. *gu.* Sir Owen Smyth was Lord of the Manor of Burgh Castle in 1630; and in 1652 it was in the hands of

\* This Hundred comprises the parishes of Caister, Mautby, Runham, Stokesby with Herringby, Filby, Thrigby, Scratby, and Ormesby, containing upwards of 13,000 acres, the magistrates for which division hold their petty sessions at Yarmouth. The annexed engraving of the Seal of the Hundred is taken from the brass matrix, which was in the possession of the late W. M. Fellows, Esq., of Ormesby.

† Ranny is a local name for a field mouse—*mus araneus*. In Mr. Ranney's office his wife's nephew, Mr. Henry Roberts, commenced his legal education. In 1836 he was called to the bar, and in 1840 was appointed Chairman of Quarter Sessions and Chief Judge of the Court of Common Pleas at Jamaica; and a Commissioner of Education for that island in 1845. He resigned these appointments in 1853, and in the same year became private secretary to the Duke of Newcastle. In 1854, during the Crimean campaign, he was appointed Under Secretary of State for War. He resigned in 1855, and was appointed a Commissioner of Inland Revenue. The arms long used by his family are the same as those borne by the ancient family of Roberts of Cornwall—*as.* three estoyles and a chief wavy *or.* See Fuller's *Worthies*, i., p. 225.

‡ Filling the same position as recorder, which office was not created till 1608.





General Fleetwood and Bridget his wife, daughter of General Ireton, and granddaughter of the Lord Protector. *M.*, pp. 202, 239, 423; *P. C.*, p. 337. Page's *Suffolk*, p. 220.

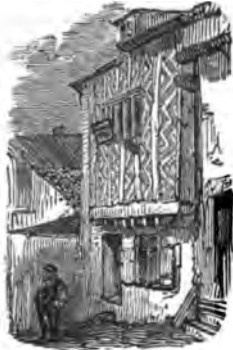
On the east side of Priory plain the Primitive Methodists have erected a large meeting house with schools adjoining.

*Row*, No. 10. This row, leading from *George Street* to *Church Plain*, is named *North Row* in Armstrong's map. It was called *Horn Row*\* at a very early period, and is probably one of the oldest rows in the town, as it runs behind the houses erected on the south side of *Fuller's Hill*, east of *George Street*. Several very old houses still remain in it. At the north-east corner is a house having its gable end towards *Church Plain*, formerly a common arrangement, of which there are now very few examples remaining in Yarmouth. On the south side were houses belonging to the Hospital of the Blessed Virgin. On the same side, extending into the next row, there was in the last century a chandlery established in 1760 by John Brown, tallow chandler, who died in 1800, aged 68. He devised the property to his nephew, John Brown, who placed a tablet to his uncle's memory upon a pillar in the nave of St. Nicholas' church, where it still remains; and upon it is the representation of a candle, covered by an extinguisher, with the words "Death extinguishes all."†

*Row*, No. 11, from *St. Andrew's Church* to *George Street*, called *North Garden Row*, because it adjoined an extensive garden which had probably belonged to the Carmelites, but which afterwards came into the possession of the churchwardens, on behalf of the Parish church. On the north side of this row were several alms houses which, in 1842, were sold by the Guardians of the Poor, with the approbation of the Poor Law Board. There is an old house still standing in it.

\* Probably named from a tavern so called. A horn was used anciently as a receptacle of "the flowing mead," and was provided with feet, so that emptying it at a single draught was not an act of necessity. See Strong's *Frithiof's Saga*, p. 81. Drinking horns are still used in the harvest field.

† John Brown, jun., married Miss Richmond of Lowestoft in 1790.



Row, No. 12, from *George Street* to *Church Plain*; called *George and Dragon Row* from the sign of a public house at the north-east corner.\* On the south side are some very old houses overhanging the row, and exhibiting in front a good specimen of "herring-bone work," of which there are, according to Hart, but two other examples to be found in Norfolk. This row is in part only 3 feet 4 inches wide.

\* As St. George was the patron saint of England, this was one of our most ancient and popular signs, and is probably to be found in every old town in the kingdom. The following epigram was written by a Norfolk man some centuries since—

"To save a maid, St. George the Dragon slew,

"A pretty tale, if all that's told be true;

"Some say there was no dragon; and 'tis said

"There was no knight,—Let's hope there was a maid."

According to an old ballad this dragon did on

"every day,

"Untimely crop some virgin flower,

"Till all the maids were worn away,

"And none were left him to devour,

"Saving the king's fair daughter bright,

"Her father's only heart's delight."

One of a later date, gives this lament:—

"As I went past the *Dragon* bar,

"I heard the housemaid, Susan Farr,

"Behind the taproom sighing;

"Oh me! I lead a weary life,

"With all this noise and drunken strife,

"Men singing, romping, lying;

"This is no place for me; I pine

"Midst pewter pot and flagon;

"I should be better, I should shine

"As maid beneath the *Angel* sign,

"Instead of *George and Dragon*."

*Francisci Costeri* by S. Baring Gould.

The Turks (who pay great respect to St. George, under the name of *Chester Eliuz*), point out a well in the territory of the Druses, near to which they state that our saint slew the dragon which was hastening to devour the daughter of the King of Beyrout. One of the earliest records of this famous achievement is contained in a

**Row**, No. 13, from *North Quay* to *George Street*, called *South Garden Row*, because it adjoined the garden already mentioned, which in the early part of the last century was in the occupation of Robert Ward, Esq., from whom it passed to John Lacon, Esq., who erected a malthouse upon it, and this row was then called *Lacon's Row*. On the south side there was an open space long known as *The Green Yard*. There were several old houses in this row inhabited by families named Abbot, Edridge, and THIRKETLE. The last is a Danish name, spelt also Thirkle and Thurketel. A general, named Turketel, employed by Canute, expelled the English Earl Ulfketel; and, among other possessions, obtained the keeping of the camp at Caistor near Norwich, a part of which he gave to the Monastery of St. Bennet at Holme, and by an exchange the whole became vested in the Abbot of Bury St. Edmund's. Robert Thurkyld of Yarmouth was, in 1242, appointed captain of one of the king's ships, sworn before the privy council, and sent to convey troops to the king then in Gascony. He held a messuage and a marsh at Thurton, which passed to the Prior of Yarmouth. Thomas Thurkyld was bailiff in 1269, and William Thurkyld in 1316; and he also represented the borough in the first Parliament of Edward III. Francis Thirkle was clerk of the assembly in the 16th century. Francis, his son, called Thirkettle, married in 1675 Martha, daughter of Richard Brightin, and by her, who died in 1721, aged 67, had a son, Robert Thirkettle, who married in 1712 Mary Anne Black, and by her, who died in 1737, aged 42, he had a son, Brightin Thirkettle, who married in 1742 Margaret Sayer, and a daughter, Mary, who married Samuel Tolver, and died in 1752, aged 37. Henry Thirkettle of Yarmouth voted at the Norfolk election in 1714 for

very ancient composition, entitled *Hora Beata Virginis secundum usum Sarum*, which was sung in Salisbury cathedral till the Reformation of Missals and Breviaries by Pope Clement VII. Tradition says that St. George was born at Lydda in "the land of the Philistines," and there Richard Cœur de Lion built a noble church to his honor, the ruins of which now form the chief attraction of Ludd. The walls and part of the groined roof of the chancel, says a modern writer, still remain, and also one lofty-pointed arch, with its massive-clustered columns and white marble capitals, rich in carving and fretwork. Porter's *Giant Cities of Bashan*, p. 188. The present Master of the Mint has re-introduced upon the reverse of a new coinage of sovereigns the device of St. George; for in his character as Chancellor of the Exchequer he has to face the dragon of increased expenditure brought forth by the demon of war.

Sir Ralph Hare and Erasmus Earle.\* Robert Thirkettle of Flegg Burgh married Elizabeth, daughter of Samuel Tolver, by Martha Dalling his wife; and Elizabeth, their daughter, who died in 1805, aged 57, married William Palgrave, Esq. The family is now extinct.

At a house next but one to the south-west corner resided for many years Mr. LILLY WIGG. For upwards of half a century he was engaged in the continual investigation of the plants peculiar to this district. The *Fucus* discovered by and named after him forms, says Paget, one of the greatest gems in the *Herbarium*. He was born on Christmas day, 1749, at Smallburgh in Norfolk, where his father was a shoemaker. Endowed by nature with more than ordinary talents he despised this humble occupation, and having migrated to Yarmouth, opened a school in *Fighting-Cock Row*. His fondness for botany and his eager pursuit of its study, attracted the attention of Mr. Dawson Turner, who in 1801 enabled him to exchange the drudgery of a school for a clerkship in the Bank of Gurneys and Turner, which situation he held till the close of his life. Occupied all day long at the bank, he nevertheless contrived by great perseverance to acquire a competent knowledge of the Latin language; and also made himself acquainted in some degree with French and Greek. In the higher branches of arithmetic he was well skilled; and his handwriting was of extreme beauty and neatness. He became acquainted with Dr. Aikin, the Hon. T. Wenman, Mr. Woodward, Sir James Smith, the Rev. Norton Nicholls, and other residents and visitors who liked the man and took an interest in his pursuits. Wigg was an ardent student of natural history, and bestowed great attention upon the birds and fishes of this neighbourhood. He was for many years a Fellow of the Linnean Society. He collected materials for a history of esculent plants, which he never published; and left behind him a large accumulation of valuable notes on botany

\* As we shall have frequent occasion to refer to this election as a test of political feeling, it may be here stated that the candidates were Sir Jacob Astley, Bart., of Melton Constable, and Thomas de Grey, Esq., of Merton, who supported the "principles of the glorious revolution of 1688" and the Hanoverian succession; being opposed by Sir Ralph Hare, Bart., of Stow Bardolf, and Erasmus Earle, Esq., of Heydon, who stood forward for the old royalists and the adherents of the House of Stuart. The two former were returned.

and natural history, which are lost to the world. In politics he was a republican, and in religion a baptist; but for more than thirty years he never entered a place of worship. He died in 1828, aged 79.

**Rows**, No. 14 and No. 15, lead from *George Street to Church Plain*. Between them stood a meeting house belonging to the Particular or Calvinistical Baptists, who established themselves in this part of the town in the eighteenth century. At first they hired a house in which to assemble for divine worship, and they appear to have possessed no property until 1783, when William Jolly by his will gave them two houses, one of which abutted upon George street (then called Middle-gate street), which in 1697 had been the property of William Lovell,\* and they subsequently obtained other houses in the same locality, which enabled them to erect a meeting house, the trusts of which were declared by a deed enrolled in 1789.† This chapel was dismantled in 1870, and the site added to the adjoining brewery.

**Row**, No. 16, which led from *George Street to Church Plain*, was absorbed by the adjacent brewery.

**Row**, No. 17, from *North Quay to George Street*. The open space between this row and the next (No. 18), is called *Say's Corner*; and this row is called *North Say's Corner Row*. The dwelling house at the north-west corner, fronting the quay (an old house faced with white brick) was, in the 17th century, the residence of Brightin Wakeman, Esq., and in the latter part of the last and beginning of the present century it was the property and residence of THOMAS GIRDLESTONE, Esq., an eminent physician. He was born at Holt in Norfolk in 1758, and entering the army in a medical capacity, served for some time under the command

\* A William Lovell was one of the Cinque-port bailiffs in 1658. Thomas Lovell, named in the charter of Charles II., filled the office of mayor in 1692, and died on the 28th of March, 1699, aged 61, "that same day" as his epitaph in the churchyard informed us.

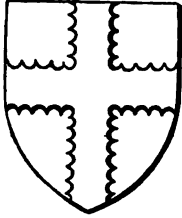
† Mr. Jabez Brown was Minister of the New Baptist Meeting house in 1781. He drew up a *Declaration of Faith and Practice*, which was published by his successor, Mr. Ed. Goymour, in 1806. From the latter this building was long called Goymour's meeting. The Rev. W. W. Horne, another minister, published *The Faith of the Gospel vindicated*, being the substance of two sermons preached at the Baptist meeting.



of Colonel the Hon. Sir Charles Stuart, Governor of Minorca, K.B. (fourth son of the Earl of Bute, who died in 1801), to whose friendship he attributed his success in life. After passing some years with the army in India he settled in Yarmouth, where he succeeded Dr. Aikin, and practised with great success for thirty-seven years. His experience of the efficacy of calomel in the east, led to his rather profuse use of it in this country. He was the *beau ideal* of the physician of the last century. Tall, slender, and upright, scrupulously dressed in black with silk stockings and half gaiters, a white cravat, an ample shirt frill, powdered head and pigtail, he might be seen daily perambulating the town with his gold-headed cane. He was the author of several medical works, and contributed largely to the professional journals. He also wrote an essay to prove that General Lee was the author of Junius; and published several views of ancient buildings, including the Church of St. Peter in Wolverhampton, Dudley Castle, and the Abbeys of Lilleshall, Haughmond, and Buildwas in Shropshire, with short descriptions appended to each. His residence in Yarmouth led him to compare the translation of *Anacreon* by the Rev. Mr. Urquhart, then residing at Hobland hall, with the original; and in 1803 Dr. Girdlestone published his own translation of those odes, which he dedicated to Charles Stuart, Esq., and Capt. John Stuart, R.N., sons of his former patron, after having "kept it from the press nearly eleven years."\* In 1805 Dr. Girdlestone published an address to the inhabitants, strongly urging the advantages of vaccination, and rebutting all the arguments then brought against it, which latter after a lapse of more than sixty years have been revived. A cast was taken from his head after his death, which occurred very suddenly in 1822, caused by aneurism of the heart. While walking on the quay he was observed to stagger and fall; and his body was taken into the nearest house (No. 2), but life was extinct. He bore *gu*, a cross engraved *arg*. He possessed a good library, principally of medical

\* Dr. Girdlestone concludes the preface to his translation of *Anacreon* with the following words of wisdom:—"If the duration of pleasure be the wish of the Epicurean, how can that wish be so certainly attained as by preserving the integrity of his mind and the duration of his health, by that forbearance which moderates his immediate pleasure? The practical physician has many more opportunities than the theologian of seeing the miserable effects of an ill-spent life."

works, which was sold by auction soon after his decease. By his



marriage with the widow of the Rev. John Close, and daughter of Robert Lawton, Esq., of Ipswich\* (who died in 1817), he had an only son, Charles Stuart Girdlestone, an ardent ornithologist, who formed a large collection of birds, principally shot by his own gun in the neighbourhood of Yarmouth. He died in 1831, aged 33, unmarried. The doctor had also an

only daughter (who became his sole heir), Emma Grace, who married John Baker, Esq., who filled the office of mayor in 1832, and also resided for a time at the above house. She died at Brighton in 1867, without issue. John Close, son of the Rev. John Close, died at Yarmouth in 1821. The grandmother of Mrs. Girdlestone was a Blois, and she and many of her family were buried at Wangford. Miss Anna Lawton, a sister of Mrs. Girdlestone, died at Yarmouth in 1839, aged 73.

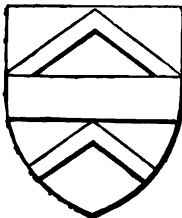
In this house afterwards resided the Rev. John Thomas Davies, for a few years "the excellent and exemplary" curate of the Rev. Richard Turner, "who whilst living was much esteemed, and when dead was greatly lamented," as his epitaph in St. Nicholas' church informs us. He died 19th Feb. 1827, aged 29, and his remains were followed to the grave by a large concourse of people.† He was of St. Mary's hall, Oxford, M.A.

**How**, No. 17, from *Say's Corner*‡ to *George Street*. To the south is an old half-timbered house.

\* Lawton bore *arg.* on a fess betw. three cross crosslets fitchee *sa.*, as many cinquefoils of the field.

† "My days are past, my purposes are broken off, even the thoughts of my heart," (Job xvii. 11) was the text of his funeral sermon.

‡ How this name was acquired does not appear; probably from some family who had property near. Robert Say, eldest son of Robert Say of Downham, and an



Alderman of King's Lynn, died in 1723, aged 36. "Being newly appointed," says his very singular epitaph in St. Nicholas' chapel, Lynn, "one of the Receivers for this County"—O! unfortunate advancement!—receiving his first tax in "his very first round at Yarmouth, where then raged a contagious fever—he, alas!—also received the infection, and "being scarce returned home ended the last round of his life "and the first round of his collection together, and himself paid "nature's last debt, lamented by all." He bore *gu.*, a fess.

**Row**, No. 18, from *Say's Corner* to *George Street*, called *South Say's Corner Row*. Here is a large house now divided.

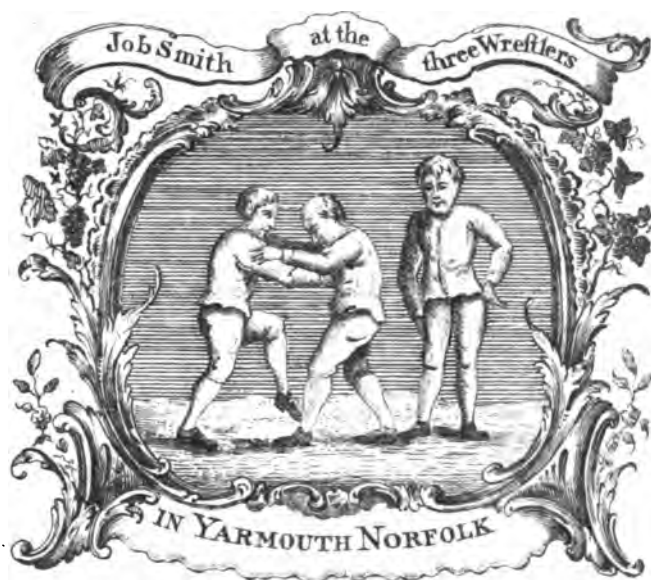
**Row**, No. 19, from *George Street* to *Church Plain*, is the last row in this direction. It was called *Wrestlers' Row*, because it led direct to an ancient Inn on *Church Plain*, fronting north, which was called *The Wrestlers*.<sup>\*</sup> Early in the 17th century this house was called *Thirkell's*, but so far back as 1691 it was known as the *Wrestlers*, and then extended westward as far as *Middlegate* street, now *Charlotte* street. These premises had previously belonged to Daniel Tills and John Albert Hendrick; and subsequently to Joseph Partridge, Robert Newman, and Samuel Meadow. In 1743 this property was purchased by Samuel Killett, merchant, who becoming bankrupt it was sold by the assignees of his estate† to Job Smith. It was then the most considerable hostelry in the town, and its prosperity was enhanced (as is frequently the case down to our own times) by the energy and ability of the landlady. Smith himself was a job-master, and interested himself in expediting the communication between Yarmouth and Norwich.‡ In 1764 he

between two cheveronels *arg.* William Say was appointed, in 1726, Receiver General for Yarmouth, in place of William Pacey, deceased. John Say, who died in 1749, devised a small estate at Swanton Abbott to Thomas King, who died in 1767, and who was the great grandfather of Thomas William King, Esq., York Herald, a native of Yarmouth.

\* Wrestling was a favorite game with the English from an early period, and down to the reign of George III. was considered a manly accomplishment among gentlemen. Hence this sign is to be found in many places. In the last century this Inn displayed a very large sign of three wrestlers, nearly as large as life, two in action and one looking on; and hence it was frequently called *The Three Wrestlers*. See the annexed engraving taken from the heading of an old tavern-bill. In Petty Cury in Cambridge there was an ancient hostelry called *The Wrestlers*, in which, according to tradition, Jeremy Taylor was born.

† They were the Rev. Richard Gay Lucas, Clk., and Charles Le Grys, John Morse, and William Butcher; clergymen, it appears, being then considered eligible to fill that office.

‡ So early as 1725 a coach was advertized to run every Tuesday and Friday, "setting out at nine in the morning and making no dinner by the way." Fare, 3s. each passenger. This innovation was resented by those who had always considered "that the most commodious passage between Yarmouth and Norwich was by a barge "or wherry," and thereupon they "caused a complete barge to be built, fitted with





established what he called "a new flying post coach on steel springs," carrying six inside passengers.\* We catch many glimpses of what then took place at the *Wrestlers* from the diary of Syllas Neville, who arrived in Yarmouth in 1768, going to the *Wrestlers*, and, as he tells us,

"suitable conveniences for the reception of gentlemen and ladies and others, to pass "from Yarmouth to Norwich every Monday and return Tuesday, and so to pass and "rep~~ass~~ every day according as occasion should require;" and as a further recommendation it was announced that "no fare was fixed, but it was left wholly to the generosity of the public." The coach however prevailed, to be superseded in its turn by steam.

\* Syllas Neville, writing in 1768, says "the proprietors of one of the stages carried Miss Turner, Miss Gay, and me to Norwich, in a chaise and four." Stage coachmen of former days were frequently eccentric characters. "Old Warren" was the last who drove out of Yarmouth. When engaged in promoting the Yarmouth and Norwich railway, the solicitor of the company had frequent occasion to journey to Norwich outside Warren's coach. His errand was well known; and it often excited the ire of the old man. "Why look ye here," he would exclaim, "I have but three passengers; and how is a railroad to answer, I should like to know?" There was then but one coach to Norwich every morning, which returned in the evening; and one other coach in the afternoon, called "The little mail." Now there are four trains daily to Norwich, except on Saturdays when there are five. One Yarmouth stage coachman, named William Slater, aged 59, was accidentally killed in 1776 by the upsetting of his "machine," as it descended a steep hill on the south side of Haddiscoe churchyard; and he lies buried within the latter. The Rev. John Doddington, then Rector of Haddiscoe, who died in 1789, aged 72, wrote the following epitaph, which may still be seen on a stone outside the church wall:—

" True to his business, and his trust,  
 " Always punctual, always just;  
 " His horses, could they speak, would tell  
 " They loved their good old master well.  
 " His uphill work is chiefly done,  
 " His stage is ended—race is run;  
 " One journey is remaining still,  
 " To climb up Sion's Holy Hill.  
 " And now his faults are all forgiven,  
 " He drives, Elijah like, to heaven;  
 " Takes the reward of all his pains,  
 " And leaves to other hands the reins."

The Yarmouth and Cambridge carrier in 1756 was "Mr. Strutt," who was intrusted with curious commissions as appears by an advertisement in the *World*. "Wanted "a curate at Beccles in Suffolk. Inquire further of Mr. Strutt, Cambridge and "Yarmouth carrier, who Inns at the *Crown*, corner of Jesus lane, Cambridge. "N.B.—To be spoken with from Friday noon to Saturday morning, 9 o'clock."

dining with the landlord and landlady, which was at that time a usual practice.\* He resided at Scrathy hall from 1769 to 1772, frequently riding in and dining at the *Wrestlers*, although occasionally, when in a desponding mood, he records "dining with Duke Humphrey," sometimes in the Church yard.† At the above hotel he met the landowners and farmers of the neighbourhood; and also officers of the army and navy. He particularly mentions Capt. O'Hara, a natural son of Lord Tyrawley, with whom he had a discussion on the subject of impressment. On another occasion he says "I silenced Squire Knights, who endeavoured to defend the game laws." He also mentions meeting Dr. Jebb,‡ who was then lodging in Yarmouth (a man of very advanced opinions), Squire Tasburgh, a Roman Catholic, and Col. Wilson. Ives, sen., in his journal, also frequently mentions the *Wrestlers*, where occasionally he had "a very good super."§ Smith had a ticket in the State Lottery for 1772, which although it proved a blank, entitled him to £1000,

\* In the early times when travellers were received and entertained by the so-called religious houses, no charge was made; but at their departure each guest left a sufficient remuneration in money or goods, as is the custom still in the East. After the reformation, when houses were opened for the reception of travellers, although a fixed money payment came into use, yet down to the present century such in-comers were called guests, and the keeper of the house was the host, who was supposed to entertain them; and at their departure they gave gratuities to the servants, as guests still do at private houses.

† Among other eccentricities the doctor rode a Spanish entire horse, purchased of General Trepand, which occasioned great inconvenience to himself and his neighbours, was the terror of ostlers, and was frequently stabled at the *Wrestlers*. There was an old saying that Yarmouth was a heaven for women, but another place for horses. The latter assertion arose from the heavy construction of the Yarmouth carts (even those of the better sort being without springs), and the heavy loads put upon them, when there were no roads to the sea, so that the fish then landed on the beach had to be carted through deep sand.

‡ Dr. John Jebb was the son of the Dean of Cashel. He graduated at Peter house, Cambridge, and bore several offices in that university, and was a fellow of his college till he married Miss Tolkington in 1764. His lectures were prohibited in 1770; he became a professed Arian, and was compelled to resign his livings of Homersfield and Flixton in Suffolk. He then threw off his gown and studied physic, practising with great success in London till his death in 1786. He was buried in Bunhill Fields. There are several engraved portraits of him.

§ It was customary to go to a tavern in order to conclude a bargain, to settle accounts, or divide profits. He so spells the word supper.

because it was the last drawn. Such were the tricks employed to persuade people to gamble. On the strength of his good fortune he retired from business in favor of John Orton. Job Smith died in 1784; Mary his wife having died in 1779. Mary Anne their only child died at Willesden in Middlesex in 1769, aged 16, where, in the churchyard, there is an altar tomb to her memory. In 1787 the heirs at law of Smith, who were very difficult of discovery, conveyed the property to John Suckling, vintner, who dying in 1799 left it to Sarah his widow; and in the following year an incident occurred which contributed greatly to the celebrity of this hotel. On the 6th of November, 1800, NELSON, having filled all Europe with his fame by the victory of Aboukir, landed at Yarmouth, accompanied by Sir William and Lady Hamilton, and proceeded to the *Wrestlers*.\* His return had been anxiously expected by the nation; and the hero himself was eager to set foot again in England, and especially in his native county. When he arrived in Yarmouth Roads the weather was stormy, and the coxswain of the admiral's barge hesitated to undertake the responsibility of attempting a landing; but the determined spirit of Nelson would brook no delay. The populace, frantic with delight, received him on landing with vociferous cheers; and taking the horses from a carriage which was ready for his use, drew him in triumph to the Church plain. Standing at an open upper window of the *Wrestlers*, and surveying the vociferous multitude below him, Nelson, much gratified, exclaimed "I am myself a Norfolk man, and I glory in being so." Soon afterwards the mayor and corporation waited upon Nelson and presented him with the freedom of the borough.† Accompanied by the mayor and

\* This companionship may have been the reason of Lady Nelson's "manifest neglect," in not being at Yarmouth to receive her husband.

† When about to take the freeman's oath, Watson the town clerk observing Nelson's left hand on the book, and thinking only of the legal impropriety, said "your right hand, my Lord." "That," observed Nelson, "is at Tenerife!" How it was there lost is thus described by Sir William Hoste, then a midshipman on board the *Theseus*. "At two o'clock Admiral Nelson returned on board, being dreadfully "wounded in the right arm by a grape-shot. I leave you to judge of my situation "when I beheld our boat approach with him, who I may say has been a second "father to me, his right arm dangling by his side, while with the other he helped



corporation, by Admiral Dickson and all the naval officers then on shore, and by many of the principal inhabitants, Nelson repaired to the Parish church, there to return thanks to Almighty God for having preserved him amidst so many dangers, and permitted him to return in safety to his native land. Miss Knight, who had been consigned by her mother, Lady Knight, when on her death bed at Palermo, to the care of the Hamiltons, and who had accompanied them to Yarmouth, informs us that when Nelson entered St. Nicholas' church the organ played "See the conquering hero comes"! The troops then in the town assembled on the plain before the hotel, salutes were fired, bands played, and every means were used to express the joy of the inhabitants and their admiration of the great captain. In the evening Nelson dined with the mayor, Samuel Barker, Esq., and at night there was a general illumination. On the following day Nelson wrote to the Admiralty, expressing his desire to serve again immediately; his health being re-established, and it not being his wish "to be for a moment out of active service." The Yeomanry cavalry, under the command of Capt. (afterwards Sir E. K.) Lacon, had the honor of escorting Nelson out of the town. Before his departure he left £50 with the mayor to be distributed among the necessitous poor; and a request was made by Mrs. Suckling\* to allow her to call the hotel in future the *Nelson Arms*. "That would be absurd," said the hero, "seeing that I have but one!"† and *Nelson's Hotel* was substituted.‡ Suckling's widow married, in 1801, William Wood; and went to reside at Horsley Down in Surrey. In 1803 *Nelson's Hotel* was purchased by William Roe, and after many

"himself to jump up the ship's side, and with a spirit which astonished everyone, told the surgeon to get his instruments ready, for he knew he must lose his arm." Nelson, before his departure from Yarmouth, left five guineas for the town clerk, and one guinea for the mayor's officer, in return for his "burgess letter."

\* Her husband had claimed some relationship to Nelson, whose mother was Catherine, daughter of the Rev. Maurice Suckling, Rector of Barsham near Beccles, by Anna, daughter of Sir Charles Turner of Warham.

† Nelson often joked about his bodily infirmities. "The admiral has made a signal to retire from action," was reported to him at Copenhagen. "I can't see it," said Nelson, putting the telescope to his blind eye, "fire away."

‡ There was, it is said, an ostler at this Inn, also named Suckling, whose *soubriquet* was "Battle Suckling," because he was ready to fight anybody.

subsequent changes of ownership became, in 1817, vested in John Atkinson, on whose death it was sold and divided. Part of the *Wrestlers* is now reconverted into a liquor shop, called the *Anchor of Hope*.

It was a very old custom for the bailiffs, and subsequently for the mayor, to give a dinner on the occasion of every Sessions of Oyer and Terminer and General Gaol Delivery. In 1552 an allowance of £21 was made for this purpose, "over and besides counsels' fees and their horsemeat;" which payment was increased in 1572 to twenty nobles. The dinner was to consist of ten dishes in the first course, two dishes in the second course, with proper "intermesses." Afterwards it was ordered that all justices, the coroners, the town clerk, the barristers, and attorneys attending the court, two ministers, the grand jury, and strangers coming to the town on account of the sessions, should be invited. Before the passing of the Municipal Corporation Act it was customary on the first day of the sessions for the recorder to breakfast with the mayor; some of the justices and the town clerk being invited to meet him. The mayor then went to church in state, accompanied by the recorder and some of the magistrates, all in their robes of office, and after divine service he proceeded to the Tolhouse hall, where he opened the courts and commenced the business; and in the evening the "sessions dinner" was held either at the *Wrestlers* or the Town hall. Since the passing of the above act and the discontinuance of any allowance to the chief magistrate, sessions dinners have been rare. The Black Friday dinner, which always took place at the *Wrestlers*, has already been mentioned (p. 74). This hotel was also frequented by political and literary societies. In 1780 a club was formed which met monthly at the *Wrestlers*, for the purpose of choosing books for circulation among its members and to partake of supper. Hence it was called *The Monthly Book Club*.\* In 1792 a *Church and King Club* was formed, the members of which agreed to dine together at the *Wrestlers* on the 29th of May annually. At their first meeting, among many loyal and patriotic toasts were the following:

\* It had successively for its secretary the Rev. Richard Turner (for fifty years), George Penrice, Esq., M.D., the Rev. Mark Waters, and the Rev. Bowyer Vaux. The history of this club, with a list of all its members from its formation, was printed in 1865 for private circulation.

"The Honor of Suffolk, Lord Thurlow, whether in or out of power;" "Prosperity to every branch of the Townshend family;" "May all the people of Great Britain enjoy and defend the blessings of the constitution, in defiance of *pain*."\* Among the many distinguished visitors who from time to time put up at *Nelson's Hotel*, may be mentioned the Duke of Cumberland, who after the death of William IV. became King of Hanover. He remained at this hotel for several days in 1813, accompanied by Capt. Portier as equerry, when on his way to the continent. On his arrival he was waited upon by the mayor (Sir Edmund Lacon), and by the military and naval officers in command. His personal appearance is described as unprepossessing; the black patch over the left eye, which he had lost in an engagement near Tournay, giving additional sternness to his haughty countenance. He was the only one of the royal princes who was personally unpopular. After a short stay he embarked in the *Nymph* frigate. The Officers of the East Norfolk Regiment when assembled for training usually messed at *Nelson's Hotel*. On grand guest-nights, towards the close of the entertainment, the band of the regiment which had been stationed outside was brought into the dining room and marched round the table playing a lively air.†

The house at the north-east corner of *Charlotte Street* was held under the same title as the *Wrestlers* until 1751, when it was sold by the assignees of Killett to Engle Knights, merchant, and Edmund Middleton. It was afterwards a public house called the *Anchor of Hope*, vulgarly *Anchor and Hope*, and subsequently the *White Hart*.‡

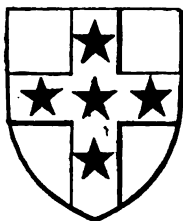
North of Row, No. 19, fronting *Church Plain*, stood a large and stately house, demolished in 1868, which in the last century was the property and residence of the WARDS, a family of great wealth and influence

\* In allusion to the notorious Thomas Paine, the republican and atheistical writer, punning and sentimental toasts being very much in vogue at this time. Paine, who was a Norfolk man, having been born at Thetford, died at New York in 1809.

† *Teste me ipso* in 1823.

‡ This is an ancient sign, the White Hart being the favorite badge of Richard II., and was probably introduced into Yarmouth when that monarch paid a visit to the town. The sign has usually represented a white hart, "lodged," as heralds call it, having a golden collar and chain; but a waggish painter found it easier to depict the form of a human heart painted white on a black ground.

in Yarmouth, who descended, according to Dugdale (*Add. M.S.S., B.M.*) from one of great antiquity in Norfolk. The first of the name who settled in Yarmouth was Toby Ward, the great great grandson of John Ward of Kirby Bedon, who lived *circa* 1363. Edward Ward, the elder brother of Toby Ward, succeeded to the family estate at Bixley, and was the immediate ancestor of Sir Edward Ward of Bixley, created a baronet in 1660. The latter married Susannah, "y<sup>e</sup> only child of Mr. William Randall, a "very rich merchant of Yarmouth, and all his wealth came to her; not "only increasing S<sup>r</sup> Edward's estate, but also administering to the "further improving y<sup>e</sup> splendor of his seat at Postwick by beautifying y<sup>e</sup> "canal, gardens, and courtyards. There is a grand avenue opened and "carried from the church up to the hall, and right before it towards y<sup>e</sup> "finest of the three fronts, is erected a very curious iron pallisado not "inferior to any in y<sup>e</sup> county" (*Postwick and Relatives*, p. 17). At the Norfolk election in 1714, he supported Sir Jacob Astley and Mr. De Grey, and was the only voter at Bixley. He died in 1736, and was succeeded by his eldest son, Sir Edward Ward, who died unmarried in 1742, aged 21. Sir Randall Ward, the second son, died in 1762 s.p., when the baronetcy became extinct. Susan, the only surviving daughter of Sir Edward Ward, married in 1764 Neil, third Earl of Rosebery, K.T., and on the death of her brother, Sir Randall, she inherited the large property of her family, including the Postwick estate, which still belongs to the earldom. Lady Rosebery died at Bixley hall in 1771. The above-named William Randall died in 1719, aged 55, and lies buried in St. Nicholas' church, under a sepulchral slab, which bears his arms —*gu.*, on a cross *arg.*, five mullets *sa.*,\* as does a hatchment.



\* A younger son of the first-named Edward Ward was a goldsmith in Cheapside; and owing to a "peculiar fortuitous circumstance" became very wealthy. Standing one day at his shop door, as was then the custom, he asked a sailor who was staring at the display of jewelry, whether he wanted to purchase anything, to which the man replied he did, but must first sell what he had in his bag. Being invited into the back shop the sailor astonished Ward by pouring out a number of rough diamonds. A bargain was soon struck, and Ward invited the sailor and some of his messmates to supper at a tavern, where they were all very merry; and before parting the sailor

To return to the Yarmouth family, Toby Ward married Thomasine, daughter of Edward Fisher of Great Witchingham in Norfolk, by whom he had a son and heir, Thomas Ward, who left three sons, Augustine, Joseph, and Edward. On the breaking out of the civil war, Jeffery Ward, Joseph Ward, Richard Ward, and Dionis Ward brought in money and plate for the use of the Parliament. In 1648 Jeffery Ward signed the Solemn League and Covenant; and in 1650 he filled the office of bailiff.\* He was re-elected in 1661; but an Act of Parliament having then been passed "for the better guiding and regulating of corporations," prescribing certain oaths which Ward refused to take, he was dismissed by the commissioners appointed by the crown to enforce compliance, and they nominated George Tillyard,† merchant, in his stead, as being "a person well affected to his Majesty Charles II. and his government." Ward conducted the brewery which had then been established;‡ and died in 1664, having by his will bequeathed £100 to the Children's hospital. George Ward filled the office of bailiff in 1671 with Sir Thomas Medowe, and they had the honor of promised to bring another bag of similar stones the next morning, which he did and parted with them on the same easy terms. Ward then became a money lender and was resorted to, among others, by Lord Dudley, who had greatly impaired his fortune. The jeweller suggested that his lordship might be accommodated without loss, by a match between the lender's son, Humble Ward (named after his maternal grandfather, Richard Humble of Surrey), and the granddaughter and sole heir of Lord Dudley. The marriage was arranged and the jeweller's son became the husband of Frances, daughter and sole heir of Sir Fernando Sutton, who on the death of her grandfather became Baroness Dudley in her own right; and her husband was created by Charles I. Baron Ward, and he was the ancestor of the Lords Dudley and Ward.

\* Toby Ward was chosen Assembly Clerk in 1654.

† Tillyard married Tabitha, daughter of Walter Bullard. The latter died in 1653. The Tilyards of Norwich, in 1772, obtained a grant of arms—*or.* on a fesse *vert.*, betw. three lions' heads erased *sa.*, five ermine spots *arg.*; and for a crest a lion's head erased *sa.* collared *vert.*, rimmed *or.* on the collar five ermine spots *arg.*

‡ In 1665 Margaret Ward released her right in some of this property, which was then in the occupation of Richard Nightingale. There had been a brewery in this locality from a very early period. In the 17th century John Victor had a brewhouse on the east side of Middlegate street, which passed from his son to John Woodroffe, whose only daughter and heir, Elizabeth, married William Salter of Norwich. This brewery was absorbed by that of the Wards, which continued gradually to increase until, in the present century, it has become one of the largest out of London.

entertaining at dinner King Charles II. and his retinue. In May following the Duke of York, afterwards James II., who had accompanied his royal brother to Yarmouth, defeated the Dutch fleet under De Ruyter off Southwold; the guns, during the engagement, being, it is said, distinctly heard at Yarmouth. The bailiffs and corporation immediately sent the victorious duke a present of "one hogshead of white wine, three tierces of claret, six sheep, six lambs, one chest of lemons, one hundred fowls, and some fresh fish." The wounded seamen who were brought to Yarmouth did not fare so well, for they were quartered upon poor people who had great trouble in getting paid. George Ward was constituted the first Mayor of Yarmouth by the charter granted in 1684, an account of the reception of which has already been given (p. 73).\* In the memorable year of 1688, the charter under which mayors had been elected being surrendered, the old practice of electing two bailiffs was revived, and George Ward was the first chosen; and many of the corporators who had been arbitrarily dismissed by James II., under a power contained in such charter, were now re-appointed. He died in 1690, aged 55. George Ward the younger filled the office of mayor in 1728; and in 1734 he contributed £10 towards the purchase of the gold chain. He died in 1755, aged 74.† Gabriel Ward, the nephew, and devisee under the will of the first-named Jeffery Ward, married Mary, daughter of Robert Mackye, merchant. He filled the office of bailiff in 1689 and 1700, and died leaving a son, Robert Ward, who at the Norfolk election in 1714 voted for Sir Ralph Hare and Erasmus Earle. He was chosen mayor in 1729, in which year the corporation contributed £50 for the relief of the English captives at "Merquinez."‡ He inherited the old family house on Church plain,

\* Shortly afterwards the mayor accompanied by some members of the corporation waited upon the Earl of Yarmouth at Oxnead, "to condole with him for the loss of his countess." See p. 73 *ante*.

† The monogram which he used was engraved as a seal.



‡ George Ward of Great Yarmouth, first cousin of Robert Ward, besides considerable property in Yarmouth had estates at South Walsham, Upton, Ranworth, Panxworth, Rackheath, Fishley, and elsewhere in Norfolk, which on his death in 1755 he devised to George Ward, the eldest son of the above-named Robert Ward, in strict tail male; who on attaining his majority took up his

depicted in Corbridge's map,\* which he removed, and built on the site the stately house recently taken down. He died in 1741, aged 64.† He married Caroline, daughter of the Rev. William Beevor, Rector of South Walsham St. Lawrence, Norfolk (grandfather of the first Sir Thomas Beevor), by whom he had two daughters and co-heirs, the eldest of whom, Elizabeth, married John Lacon, Esq., son of Edmund Lacon, Esq., of Otley in the county of York, who thereupon settled in Yarmouth and became the founder of the Yarmouth family of that name.‡ John Lacon, the second and youngest son of this marriage, resided in the house on Church plain until his death, unmarried, in 1811, aged 58, after which his sister, Miss Judith Lacon, resided there until her death in 1817. He was a Deputy-Lieutenant for Norfolk. With the

residence upon his South Walsham estate. The testator by a codicil bequeathed some of his china and plate to his granddaughter, Elizabeth Love, and he directed that his gold watch and seal and diamond ring should go to the person entitled to his estates; and he gave the sum of £3 to be distributed among such poor persons as his executors should judge most proper, living in the north ward. He gave to Elizabeth Banford Pearson "a large china punch bowl and a silver punch ladle which was Mrs. Banford's;" and he gave to Elizabeth Hastings his "silver pint mug." Robert Ward, who died at Wells, Norfolk, in 1849, aged 78, is said to have been the last of the Wards of Yarmouth.

\* It is represented as having a gable at the south end; the remainder of the house being of two stories, the second in the roof with three dormer windows. The adjoining house to the north, fronting the plain, is also depicted. It was a public house called the *Lamb*, afterwards the *Anchor of Hope*, and was taken down in 1868. A lofty white-brick wall now bounds the site of these houses and also of two other buildings which stood between the Mansion house and the above row. Behind this wall and extending to George street and occupying each side of the row are the present brewery premises, which have been greatly extended since the time of the Wards.

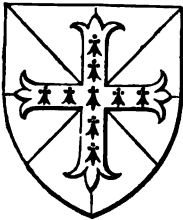
† His will contains the following curious legacy :—" I give and bequeath to my "good friend, Charles Franks, my best full-trimmed suit of black cloaths, and I "desire my executors will buy him a handsome mourning ring to remember me with."

‡ Martha, another daughter of the Rev. William Beevor, married Edmund Lacon, Esq., of Otley, by whom she was the mother of John Lacon above mentioned, who consequently married his first cousin.

last-named Robert Ward, the family became extinct in Yarmouth.\* Subsequently the above-mentioned house was for some years occupied by Matthew Gunthorpe, Esq., who there commenced a collection of pictures of which a catalogue was privately printed.†

Two half-timbered houses remained standing on the south side of this row until 1868; and at the south-west corner was a house having a stone tablet let into the front bearing the date 1635 and the letters H. T. E. the initials of Henry Thompson and Elizabeth his wife, by whom it was erected. He was a member of the corporation during the civil war, but immediately after the beheading of Charles I. publicly resigned his office, as did many others. When this house was demolished in 1865, to allow the present tun room to be erected on the site, several fragments of carved stone, apparently the remains of some ecclesiastical structure which had been used as mere building materials, were discovered; especially two stone cups and some fragments of a fine quatrefoil corbel moulding.

In a house in Row, No. 19, there resided in 1803 the Rev. Rice Hughes, domestic chaplain to Earl Powis, and at that time curate to the Rev. Richard Turner. At a public meeting held at the Town hall to take into consideration the means of national defence, the fiery Welchman made a speech in which he declared that he would not "skulk



\* There is a pedigree of Ward of Yarmouth in *Bib. Harl. Cod.* 4766, fo. 67. They bore gyronny *as.* and *sa.*, a cross patonce *ermineis*; which arms appear on the sepulchral stone of Robert Ward in the Parish church—imp. *per pale or.* and *arg.* on a chief indented *sa.*, three lions ramp. *or.* for Bevor. Some members of the Norfolk family of Ward settled in Virginia, but returned to this country after the war of independence.

† The name is derived from a parish in Norfolk. When a very young man he commanded "a private ship of war in the service of the Hon. Commissioners of Excise at the Port of Great Yarmouth," called the *Lively*, with which in 1792 he captured a smuggling vessel laden with 40 casks of spirits and 500 lbs. of tobacco; and soon afterwards another having on board 240 casks and more tobacco. In the following year Capt. Gunthorpe obtained a Letter of Marque which enabled him to cruise against the enemy, and soon afterwards he captured the French ship *L'Isabella*; and subsequently made many prizes. Retiring from the service he took up his residence in Yarmouth, where he gained a large circle of friends by his conviviality and hospitality. For some years he held the second commission in Sir E. K. Lacan's troop of yeomanry cavalry. There is a portrait of him.



under the privilege of his order," but was ready to place himself "at the head of the first column that marched to meet and chastise the invading enemy." Carrying his feelings, as he himself said, into the pulpit, he a few days afterwards preached a sermon at St. George's chapel, in which his zeal again outran his discretion, and he received notice to quit the curacy. In vindication of his conduct he published the sermon, which he entitled *National Danger a Test of Virtue*, which was to be had "of the curate only, at his house in the Wrestlers' row." In a very intemperate preface he declared that although he had a wife and five children dependent upon him for support, he would not "compromise his conscience and his privilege, as a British subject, of freedom of opinion and speech for the paltry pittance of a stipendiary slave." Subsequently he hired a chapel, then used by the Anabaptists, in which he invited the inhabitants to engage seats; and he also opened a school in Middlegate street, to which he asked them to send their children, assuring them that "all his industry and talents as a clergyman and a tutor should be fully exerted for the reciprocal advantage of the town and his own family," but the inhabitants did not see it in the same light, and Mr. Hughes had to take his zeal and his talents elsewhere.

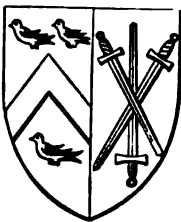
*Row*, No. 20, from *Charlotte Street* to the *Market Place*, named *Swan Row*, because at the south-east corner there is a public house called the *Swan with two necks*; a bird of this extraordinary formation being still depicted on the sign board,\* which house in the 17th century was the property of William Cosh, a wealthy brewer, and was then called "*The Three Flower de luces*."† He died in 1681, aged 63; having in 1679

\* A supposed corruption of the swan with two *nicks*, or distinguishing marks made in the beak with a hot iron. The 22 Edw. IV. made it felony to steal a "marked" swan. Swans were originally kept by the Yarmouth corporation, as they still are by the authorities at Norwich. In 1583 one Loveday was ordered to obtain a swan mark for the town; and a swanard was appointed whose duty it was to mark the cygnets with the town swan-mark; and in 1641 he was required to make a return of all cygnets marked by him. The Vintners Company in London marked their swans on the Thames with two nicks; hence a two-nicked swan was an appropriate sign for a London tavern. Royal swans were marked with five nicks.

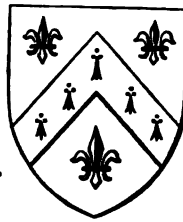
† This sign, popular in the old days when the glories of Poitiers, Cressy, and Agincourt were fresh in men's minds, is now nowhere to be found. It was first used when Edward III. assumed the royal arms of France in 1340.

served the office of bailiff. Leaving no issue he devised his large property to his nephews, John Nicholls and William Cosh; and by them the above-mentioned house was conveyed to Francis Morse, who in 1740 sold it to William Browne, Esq. This row, in which there are still some very old houses, was called *Barrett's Row* so far back as 1485.\* At the north-east corner is an old house partially rebuilt, now a chemist and druggist's shop, which with the two next houses to the north were, in the 17th century, the property of Joseph Cotman, Esq., and remained with his descendants until 1766, when the Rev. John Cotman of Broome, his great grandson, sold them. The house (No. 3) was at that time a public house called the *White Bear*; and the back premises abutted in part upon those of the *Wrestlers* and the *Buck*.

The premises now occupied by Mr. Wm. Norton Burroughs, as wine and spirit vaults (No. 2), were in the 17th century the property of Richard Brightin, already mentioned p. 125, and were with other property the subject of a settlement made in 1741 on the marriage of the daughter of Christopher Brightin, his brother and heir, with the Rev. Barry Love. In 1774 the above property was purchased by Thomas Proctor, and in 1812 was conveyed by him to William Burroughs, who had married Lydia, only child of Richard Proctor by Annie his wife, daughter of William Norton by Lydia his wife, daughter of John Playford by Mary his wife, who was the daughter of one Holtaway and Mary Anne his wife, the latter dying in 1754, aged 100 years. William Burroughs died in 1832, aged 60, when the above



property devolved upon the present possessor (see p. 94), of whom there is a portrait by Watson of London, painted in 1847. On an old glass drinking cup, still preserved in the family, are engraved the arms of Proctor—*arg.* a chev. betw. three



*martlets sa., imp. az.* three swords, one in pale point upwards surmounting

\* Robert Barrett was bailiff in 1488. He was one of the twelve persons appointed in 1491 to reform the ordinances. In 1701 Henry Barrett was bailiff. In 1787 a Mr. Barrett died in his 100th year.

the other two in saltire point downwards for Norton; and on a similar glass there is engraved this coat—*az.*, a chev. *erm.* betw. three fleurs de lis *arg.* for Burroughs, imp. the above arms of Proctor. Among the public houses possessed by Brightin bearing signs not now met with were *The Apple Tree*, the *Shoemaker's Arms*, and *The Three Hammers*.

**Row**, No. 21, from *George Street* to *Charlotte Street*. At the south-east corner, facing *Charlotte street*, there is an old house with a cut-flint front and stone dressings (No. 60), bearing on a tablet the date 1577.

On the east side of *Charlotte Street* there was in the 18th century a public house called the *Glutton*, afterward the *Crown*, which was the property of CHRISTOPHER BERNARD. This name was of long continuance. Oliver Bernard's executors had in 1349 a legacy of 20s. under the will of Simon de Stalham "to be distributed to the poor, for the soul of the said Oliver deceased," which evinces a singular solicitude on the part of the testator for the welfare of another man's soul. Robert Bernard, an alderman named in the charter of Charles II., filled the office of mayor in 1691, and died in 1699, aged 68, leaving a son, Leonard Bernard, who died in 1712, aged 48. The above-named Christopher Bernard, his son, was elected mayor on the 29th August, 1740, but died upon Michaelmas day before he could be sworn into office, aged 41. He lies buried in the chancel of the Parish church, under a slab whereon are his arms—*arg.* a bear ramp. *sa.* muzzled *or.*; and for a crest, a demi bear *sa.*, muzzled and collared *or.*—Motto, *Bear and forebear*. He died intestate, leaving his two sisters his co-heirs, one of whom, Sarah, married Richard Porter; and their daughter, Elizabeth, died in 1763, aged 22. They appear to have been a short-lived race. There was also a family who wrote their name BARNARD. Philip Barnard filled the office of bailiff in 1534. Robert Barnard was a member of the corporation named in the charter of Charles II. Christopher Barnard of Yarmouth purchased in 1739 the Manor of Shottesham, which had long been a possession of the D'Oyley family.

**Row**, No. 22, from *Charlotte Street* to the *Market Place*. At the south-west corner, facing *Charlotte street*, is an old house, having the

Following letters in iron on the front, E<sup>C</sup>1., probably the residence of Egilius Call, who, in 1634, was a strenuous opposer of the exaction called "ship money."\*

At the south-east corner of this row there is a house, No. 9, Market place, now an ironmonger's shop, which at the commencement of the nineteenth century was the property of William Worship, Esq., an ancestor of the present family of that name.†

When Louis XVIII., under the assumed title of Count de Lille, landed at Yarmouth on the 30th of October, 1807, he was taken to this house, which was then occupied by Admiral Billy Douglas.‡ He came on shore from the Swedish frigate *Freya*, in the admiral's barge, being accompanied by the Duke D'Angoulême and the Duke de Berri, and attended by the Counts d' Avaray and de Blacas (afterwards dukes), the Counts Etienne de Damas, and Nantouillet, the Chevallier de Rivière, M. d' Estelle, L'Abbe Fleurien, L'Abbe Cormur, and some others. Louis on landing was received by Admirals Douglas and Essington, Capt. Curry of the flag-ship, and Mr. Brooks of the Alien Office. The carriages of the admirals conveyed the royal exile and his suite to the above house, where breakfast was served; at which were also present Sir Samuel Hood, Admiral Russell, and several naval captains. The

\* House-marks very generally prevailed during the 16th and 17th centuries. They usually contained the initial letters of the names of the builder and his wife, and sometimes a merchant's mark; both serving to identify the house. The date of the year was also frequently introduced; and some had great elegance of design. The *Hausmärke* is frequently found in Germany; and the *bolmærke* in Denmark and Norway.

† There is an excellent portrait of him by Vandermyn, which is now in the possession of his grandson, Francis Worship, Esq. Vandermyn, a painter of considerable excellence, was introduced at Norwich by Mr. Bartlett Gurney, and was extensively employed; but he was so attached to his pipe and his beer, that he would not put them aside when at work; and this habit was detrimental to him in many ways. He died in London in 1783. There is a well-engraved portrait of him by Bassett. His son, Robert Vandermyn, was a good painter of still life; but a man of dissolute habits. He died in the Bridewell at Norwich, to which he had been committed as a vagrant.

‡ So christened. He was Port Admiral of Yarmouth; and was esteemed as a bluff but brave and good sailor; and many amusing anecdotes are told of him. His son also attained the rank of admiral; one of whose daughters married the Rev. Augustus Bellman, Rector of Moulton, Norfolk.

Count D'Artois, afterwards Charles X., then called *MONSIEUR* as being heir presumptive to the throne of France, had come down from London to meet his royal brother.\* He was attended by the Prince de Condé, the Duke de Bourbon, and the Duke de Grammont. What a gathering! Louis was the first King of France who had been in England since the battle of Poitiers in 1356. His good appetite and polished manners soon put his English hosts at their ease, and during the meal the king displayed his gallantry by presenting a rose to Miss Douglas, making at the same time a happy simile between the sweetness and delicacy of the flower and the corresponding characteristics of the young lady.† An eye witness describes the royal exile as being then a portly man, dressed in a plum-coloured coat, with a full shirt frill and ruffles. Driven from Rome by the jealousy of Napoleon, the Bourbons took up their residence at Warsaw, but the Emperor of the French, uneasy at their presence in Germany, required the King of Prussia to forbid their continuance there. Again homeless and houseless Louis had recourse to the Emperor Alexander, who placed the ducal residence of Mittau at his disposal, and there the royal fugitive was joined by his queen and the Duchess D'Angoulême. After the Peace of Tilsit, all hopes of a restoration by means of Russia were at an end; and Louis unwilling longer to continue the guest of a sovereign who had made peace with Napoleon, quitted Mittau, and accompanied by the Duke D'Angoulême proceeded to Riga and embarked for Gottenburg. They were well received by the King of Sweden who placed a frigate at their disposal, and having been joined by the Duke de Berri, Louis set sail for England. On arriving in Yarmouth Roads he received a request from the English cabinet to proceed at once to Scotland, where Holyrood palace would be prepared for his reception. This he flatly refused to do, saying he came not as a fugitive requiring an asylum, but as a king, desirous of living under the protection of the

\* The Comte d'Artois had obtained an asylum at Holyrood in 1795, and returned there when dethroned in 1830.

† A few years after the above event Miss Douglas married Capt. Brandby, R.N., who was drowned in his yacht off Hamble on the Southampton water in 1831. She is now (1871) in her eighty-eighth year, and resides at Hamble.

laws of a friendly country. The English Government would not however endanger any possible future policy by recognizing Louis as King of France, and consented only to receive him under his assumed name of Count de Lille and chief of the house of Bourbon. From Yarmouth Louis addressed a letter to George III., commencing with *Monsieur, mon frere et cousin*, which he dispatched by Count d'Avary, his favorite minister. Subsequently he drew up a statement of his reasons for coming to England, which he transmitted to Lord Hawkesbury (afterwards Earl of Liverpool), then virtually prime minister. In it he refers to his refusing a royal salute from the Swedish frigate on disembarking in Yarmouth Roads, as a proof that he came voluntarily as Count de Lille, and not as King of France. On leaving Yarmouth Louis took the road to Ipswich, but for want of horses could get no farther than Yoxford, where he supped.\*

Mr. Green, the author of the *Diary of a Lover of Literature*, says, under date 30th Nov., 1807. "At the *White Horse Inn* I had a very "near and distinct view of Louis XVIII. He bears a most striking "resemblance to the picture of his brother, Louis XVI. I watched "him, not without emotion, very attentively, yet not disrespectfully; "but could discover, either in his countenance or deportment, no particular marks either of dignity or sorrow; his countenance rather sallow; "his eyes of a dark hazle; buttoned up in a plain brown coat; his hair "dark without powder; his linen not over clean; altogether quite a "Frenchman; unusually full about the mouth, lips, and chin—to be "standing in Brook street, and viewing in this way and in this condition "the representative of the BOURBONS,—seemed like enchantment."

Louis proceeded to Gosfield park in Essex, a seat of the then Marquis of Buckingham, which had been placed at his disposal.†

\* Mr. Bagot and Mr. Ross were sent down by Government to receive Louis XVIII., but having been delayed on the road, they drove into Yarmouth when the Most Christian King was leaving it, the carriages passing each other. As soon as their horses were refreshed, their heads were turned towards London (for no others could be had), and the travellers overtook the king at Yoxford, where after supper they had an interview with his majesty.

† The Royal Family of France received great hospitality, and many acts of generosity from the Greenilles; but the Bourbons conceived they were conferring

When it became apparent that the residence in England of the Royal Family of France was likely to be protracted, the Marquis of Buckingham obtained from Sir George Lee his house at Hartwell in Buckinghamshire,\* of which place the English Government took a lease, and it became the residence of Louis and his swarm of followers for seven years. In August, 1808, the queen, as Countess de Lille, embarked on board an English frigate, intending to land at Yarmouth but was carried to Harwich, and immediately joined the king at Hartwell; where many of the customs of the old French court were kept up. Once a week the royal family dined in public, the inhabitants of the neighbourhood being allowed to walk round the table during the repast; and in the drawing room the king's sofa was placed on a dais, and he was accustomed to hold levées. The queen died at Hartwell. On the 28th of March, 1814, when the royal family were at prayers, two carriages, each drawn by four horses, were seen rapidly approaching the house. They contained deputies from Bordeaux, bringing intelligence that the English army had entered that city, and that Louis XVIII. had been proclaimed. Capt. Slaughter, R.N., quickly followed with more deputies, who were ushered into the library, and there the king signed the celebrated document, said to have been suggested by Talleyrand, accepting and promising to uphold constitutional government in France. The pen used for the signature is still preserved at Hartwell.†

rather than receiving favors, and they are accused of having treated the marquis, after the restoration, with great coolness. Louis XVIII. had however a lively recollection of the good things which he had enjoyed in England; for he was not long in Paris before he sent to Stowe for a cask of ale, which was duly forwarded.

\* Hartwell house is a venerable mansion standing on a gentle slope near the high road from Aylesbury to Oxford. Originally erected in 1570 by Sir Thomas Lee, it has ever since remained in the possession of his descendants. The late owner, the eccentric Dr. Lee, was the frequent opponent of Mr. Disraeli in his contests for the representation of the county of Buckingham.

† Community in misfortunes failed to produce unanimity either among the members of the royal family or their numerous household. Lord Liverpool complained bitterly of their quarrels, and of the assumption by Louis of regal functions over his followers. The minister had to remonstrate with the Count d'Artois; and to denounce the conduct of Count d'Avary, which had on many occasions been so objectionable that threats had to be used of sending him out of the kingdom, and of

During the latter part of the last and the beginning of the present century when there were but few houses outside the town wall, many of the rooms over the shops in the Market place were let as lodgings; and were frequently occupied by military and naval officers. Admiral Lord Gambier lodged for some time at a house adjacent to the one at which Louis XVIII. was received. In July, 1807, Lord Gambier commanded the largest fleet that ever assembled in Yarmouth Roads. It comprised one hundred king's ships and four hundred transports, containing troops under the command of Lord Cathcart. This formidable armament sailed for the Baltic, and fought the second battle of Copenhagen. On the 28th of October following, Lord Cathcart landed with the news of the bombardment and capitulation of that city, and immediately posted to Windsor to wait upon the king.\*

Row, No. 23, from *George Street* to *Charlotte Street*. There are still some old houses remaining in this row.

Opposite Rows, No. 23 and No. 25, extending westward to the North quay, is the *Conge*, which has already been mentioned as having been the most ancient part of the old town and the place where the provost resided (p. 8). Since that period the then open space on the north side has been enclosed and built over, so that the *Conge* is now much narrowed.†

stopping the handsome allowances made to the exiles by the British Government. The conduct of the French Princes when restored to power is well known. A literary lady, long resident in Yarmouth, was at Montauban when Napoleon landed at Cannes. In an unpublished M.S. diary she gives a graphic account of the extraordinary scenes to which she had been a witness,—“Except the king,” she says, “who is respected even by Bonapartists, and the Duchess D'Angoulême, who is universally loved and pitied, there is not one of the royal family spoken of but with contempt.” The Duke de Berri was especially despised for his insulting and arbitrary conduct.

\* Lord Gambier was of a serious turn of mind, and his habits of life contrasted strongly with the license which then generally prevailed in the navy. Irritated against his chief for some supposed neglect, Admiral Harvey termed him a “Psalm singer,” for which he was tried by court martial and dismissed the service. He however was reinstated and lived to be a K.C.B.

† In 1752 many of the houses in the *Conge* were in a ruinous state, and a committee of the corporation was appointed to consider what could be done with them; and in the same year a piece of waste ground on the north side of the *Conge* was granted to Alderman William Browne.



At or near the Conge was the residence of JOHN PEREBROWNE, a man of great local, and, indeed, of some national importance in the early part of the 14th century. He filled the office of bailiff thirteen times between 1312 and 1339, and also represented the borough in parliament, and was occasionally summonsed to attend the king in council to advise on naval affairs. Edward II., "in the syxth yere of his reygne, did constitute two Lord Admiralles for the naveyes of this realme of England, "the one called the Lord Admirall of the northern naveye, which "stretched from the Temes' mouthe to the northe ptea. of this land, and "the other called the Lord Admirall of the western naveye, which "stretched from the Temes westward. And of this northern naveye "John Perebrowne, one of the burgesses of Great Yarmouth, was "constituted lord admirall, whoe occupied that office sixe yeres together "after his first election. Then after thend of these sixe yeres, the said "John Perebrowne conteyned his place and office thirteen yeres "more, even unto thend of the said Kinge Edwarde the Seconde's "reigne. Afterwards also yt appeyareth by the recordes in the Tower, "that Kinge Edwarde the Thirde, in the first yere of his reigne, did "appoynte and contignewe the said John Perebrowne in his former "place and office."\* In 1333 he was commissioned as Admiral of the north sea fleet "for the Scottish war," with power to "punish and "chastise all sailors and others in the fleet, and to impress four ships of "war, men, mariners, armour, and other necessities for the expedition." In 1340 Edward III. "meeting withe the Frenche Kinge's navye "aboute Sluys on the coast of Flanders with the navye of Englande, "John Perebrowne, Admiral of the north, did there greate service, "and the shippes of this towne of Greate Yermouthe were comended "for their service, above all the English navye at that time." "Also in "the roll remaining in the king's great wardrobe, is remembered the "great and commendable service performed by Yarmouth when King "Edward III. won Calaise in 1347, this towne sent to him forty-three "ships well furnished, manned with 1,075 mariners, which was almost "double the number of ships sent by London, which was but twenty-five in all."† It was for these services that Edward III. showed great

\* See *Calendarium Rotulorum Patentium*.

† *F.*, p.p. 13, 16, 64.

favor to Yarmouth, and permitted the royal arms of England to be dimidiated with those of the town. Shields with the arms of Edward III. and of his sons, the Black Prince, John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, Edmund of Langley, Duke of York, and Thomas of Woodstock, Duke of Gloucester, were all placed on the ceiling of the south aisle of St. Nicholas' church, where they still remain.\* In 1326 Perbrowne,



EDWARD III.



LANCASTER.



YORK.



GLOUCESTER.

\* Roger Perbrowne was presented to the Rectory of Brandon Parva in Norfolk in 1327 by Sir Robert de Morley. He was probably a son of the Yarmouth admiral, as the patron was well acquainted with Yarmouth men and a few years later commanded the North-sea fleet. In 1340 Perbrowne exchanged this rectory for the Vicarage of Hemsby, and so got nearer to Yarmouth. Five centuries later two Yarmouth men became Rectors of Brandon Parva (*viz.*), the Rev. Charles Reynolds and the Rev. Samuel Tolver Preston. Sir Robert Morley commanded the North-sea fleet at the famous battle of Sluys, at which the French were utterly defeated; and, says



accompanied by Sir John Sturmy,\* Admiral of the north in 1324, was ordered to attend the king in council; and in the following year he was directed to select forty vessels to proceed to Scotland. Perebrowne farmed the king's customs on all wool exported.† He was bailiff when the lord chancellor visited Yarmouth to endeavour to adjust the differences between this town and Lowestoft. When here the lord chancellor exercised his criminal jurisdiction by committing to prison a felon for stealing beans. Perebrowne's daughter, Alice, married Sir John le Grose, Knt., of an old Norfolk family seated at Crostwick. She resided in Yarmouth, and died of the plague in 1349; having devised her rents in Yarmouth, which she had from her father, to Thomas de Begeville, Lord of Winterton, and also bequeathed to him a bed, considerable value being then attached to such articles of household furniture. She desired to be buried within the churchyard at Winterton. Le Grose bore quarterly *arg.* and *az.*, on a bend over all *sa.*, three martlets of the first. Begeville bore *sa.*, an escutcheon, and orles of martlets *or.*

At the north-west corner of the Conge was a house, which in 1593, was conveyed by Robert Smyter to John Bartilmews,‡ which before that had been the property of the CROWMER family.

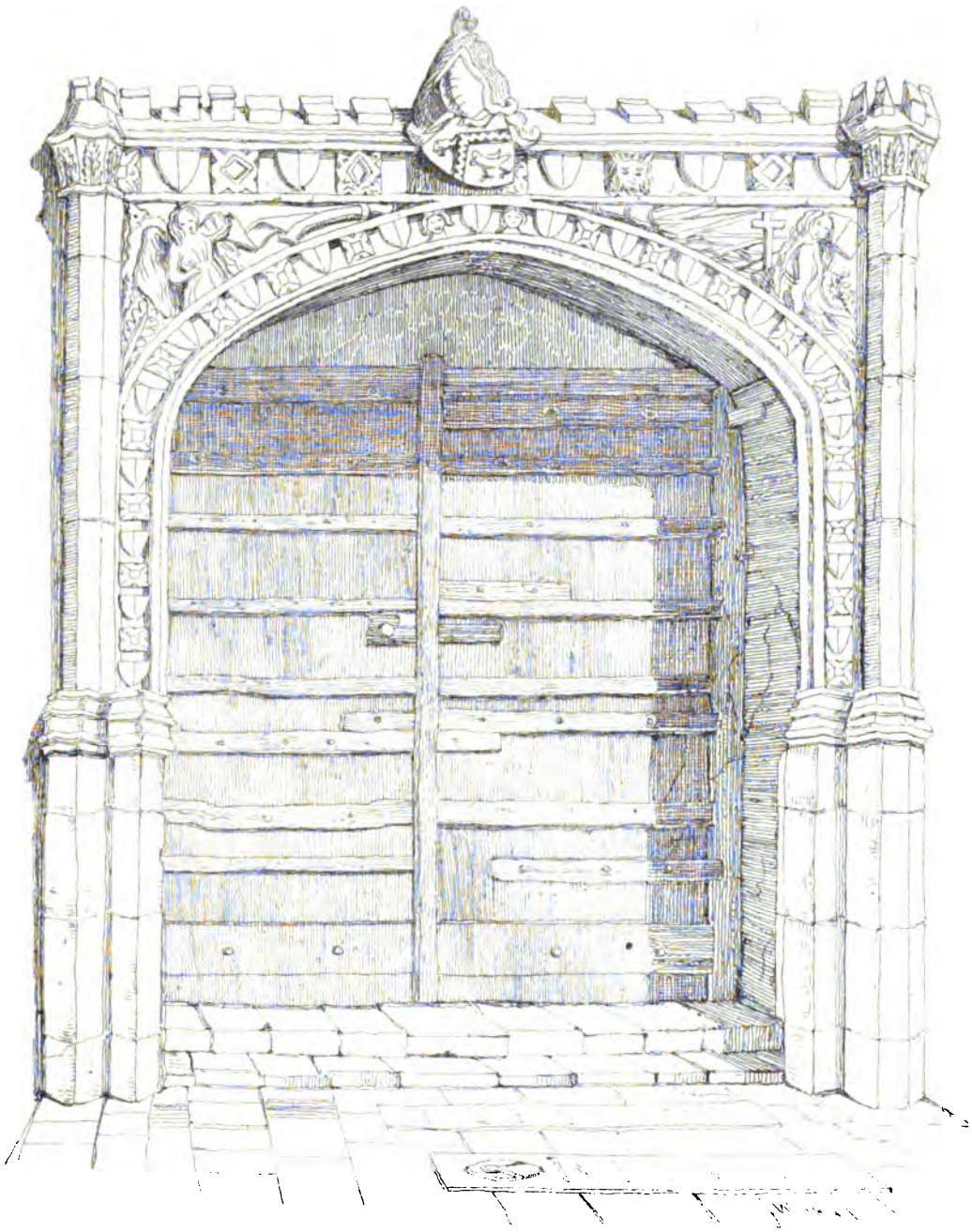
Nash, the men of Yarmouth "so slashed and sliced them that their best mercy was fire and water, which have no mercy." His shield of arms, as has been stated, is on the ceiling of St. Nicholas' church. During the occupation of Calais by Edward III., a duel *d'outrance* was arranged between Sir Robert de Morley and Lord Burnel as to a disputed claim to the right of blazon, but their dispute was adjusted by the authority of the king. It is in remembrance of this proposed encounter that when the Calais clock strikes each hour the effigies of two knights in brass, mounted and armed, begin to move and tilt away at each other, so long as the hammer with which they are connected by wires continues in motion. Musgrave's *Brittany*, p. 6.

\* He was of an old Norfolk family holding lands at Surlingham, Stratton, and other places. He bore *sa.*, a lion *pass. arg.* *F.*, p. 150.

† *Abbreviatio Rotulorum Originalium.* *F.*, p. 64.

‡ Peter Bartilmew, a herring packer in the 15th century, used this mark. The name is probably the same as Bartholomew, of which there was a family at Watlington in Norfolk, who bore *sa.*, a bend *erm.* betw. two goats' heads coupé *arg.*, barbed and attired.





CROWMER MONUMENT, YARMOUTH CHURCH.



Robert Crowmer, who flourished in the 15th century, was a man of wealth and importance, if we may judge by his monument still remaining in the north chancel aisle of St. Nicholas' church. He filled the office of bailiff no fewer than nine times between 1470 and 1497. He married Joan, daughter of John Wiltshire, and impaled her arms, per chev. *az.* and *arg.*, in chief six crosses patée *or.*, with his own arms—*or.* a chev. engrailed wavy *arg.* and *az.* between three crows *sa.*\* They appeared upon his tomb, where there was also a shield bearing his merchant's mark.† The tomb was surmounted by a square embattled canopy, in the centre of which was another shield of his arms, as above, with helmet and crest. When the Independents obtained possession of this part of the church they utilized this monument by removing the tomb altogether, and using the canopy as an architrave for a door which they opened through this monument into the churchyard. That nothing should be wasted, the stones bearing the shields of arms and merchant's mark were turned round and the names of the bailiffs and churchwardens cut upon them, and they were then placed over the vestry

\* This is *canting* heraldry. The *crows* speak for themselves, and the chev. undée represents *mer*. These are the arms of the ancient family of the Crowmers of Kent, and it may be inferred that he was descended from them; especially as his wife was of a good Kentish family. Weever informs us that she was one of the persons buried in Yarmouth church for whose souls prayers were to be made.

† It was a practice during the 14th and 15th centuries for the principal merchants to adopt a peculiar mark by which their respective goods were distinguished, and with which they sealed as with a coat of arms. "Every man," says an old writer, "may take hym a marke, but not armys without a herawde or purcyvante." The devices adopted were generally a combination of a cross and the user's initials; thus serving as monograms. A large number of these marks are recorded in the "Book of Entries" from 1638 to 1631, which is still preserved in the Record room. We find

Smith and Brown

In every town;



and these families were numerous in Yarmouth. John Smith, who was a herring packer in the 15th century, used this merchant's mark. See *P. C.*, p. 96, where there is a plate containing twenty-eight merchants' marks. As in the case of Crowmer, these marks were sometimes used even by those entitled to bear arms. Traces of many things that have passed away from amongst us, still linger among the Teutonic nations. Thus the merchants of Wentsburgh still seal with a mark peculiar to each, containing their initials.

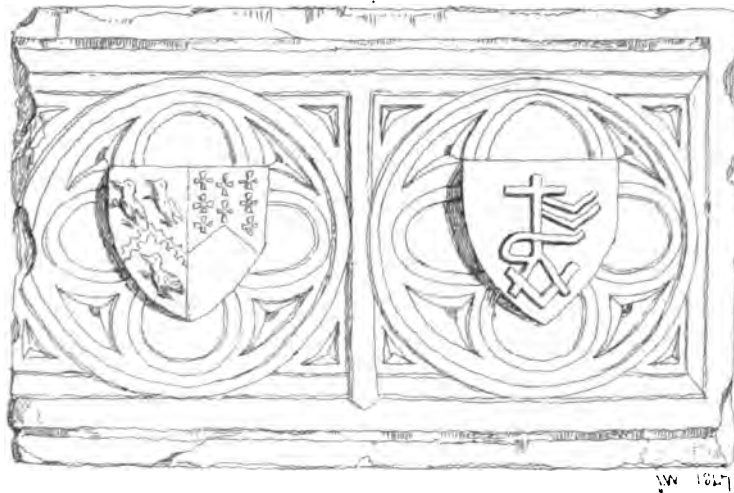
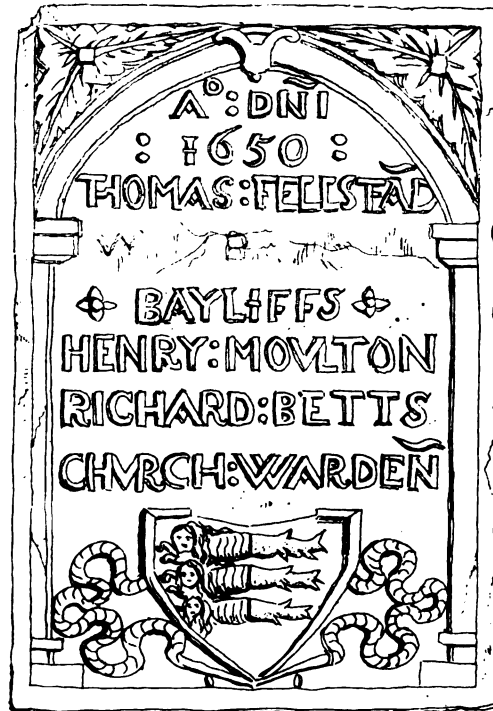
door in the north aisle, where they remained for nearly two centuries; and it was not until they were removed in 1847 that their original use was discovered.\* The door through the monument is now closed.

At the north-east corner of the Conge is a house in which Mr. Richard Moyse resided during his mayoralty in 1764. It is now divided into several occupations.

In 1611 Margaret Cubitt, widow, gave several tenements in the Conge for the use of the poor. The family of CUBITT has been of long continuance in the Hundred of Flegg in East Norfolk. The first person so named of whom we have any record, joined the insurgents under John Lytster (so called from having been a dyer of cloth at Norwich) in 1381, and became one of their leaders.† This "mighty rascally rout of rebels," as Manship calls them, "hearing of the ungracious feats done by others elsewhere, bent themselves to commit all kinds of villany in like manner in Norfolk." Resembling the locusts which God sent as one of the plagues of Egypt, they, he says, overspread the country, spoiling it with their arrows which flew "thicker than winter hail." On the morrow of St. Botolph they "entered the town of Yarmouth, doing there great damage, breaking the prison, delivering the prisoners, and committing other villanies; yet were they the next day by three of the clock wholly by the townsmen overcome and enforced to flee, leaving many of their dead carcasses behind them, which did sufficiently prove the valour of the men of Yarmouth." More successful at Norwich, they exacted large sums from the citizens; and seizing the persons of several men of distinction, held them as hostages. They then took counsel together and sent their leader Cubitt

\* *F.* p. 92 and *P. C.* p. 129. The will of Edmund Crowmer, a Burgess of Yarmouth, was proved in Norwich in 1520. In it he bequeaths to John Crowmer his son "a pryntyd boke of the Cronycles, his sword, and his daggarre;" and to "Master Doctor Gregory" his book called *Dives et Pauper*. Books were scarce in those days, and were thought worthy of special bequests. The annexed engravings of the canopy to this tomb, and of the fragments of the tomb itself are from the accurate and artistic burin of Mrs. Bowyer Vaux, and appear by her permission.

† This formidable upheaving of the people was, it may be remembered, principally caused by the imposition of a general poll-tax upon all persons above sixteen years of age; and the rude levying of which at Dartford in Kent, led to an insurrection of the commons under the blacksmith who called himself Jack Straw.



TABLET & PANEL CROWMER MONUMENT G<sup>r</sup> YARMOUTH.





and some others, in whom they had confidence, to the king, with a large sum of money, desiring letters of "manumission and freedom."



Spencer, the warlike Bishop of Norwich, whose shield of arms still adorns the ceiling of St. Nicholas' church, was distinguished by the personal energy with which he suppressed this dangerous revolt.

"Right heavily upon their heads  
 "He laid his hand—in steel;  
 "And did with trusted partisan,  
 "Their absolution seal."

Meeting with three of the rebel leaders on their way to treat with the king, he struck off their heads, which he placed on poles and carried in triumph to Wymondham. He then attacked the insurgent camp near North Walsham; and after a short, sharp and decisive fight compelled "the commons" to flee before him, following up the fugitives with great slaughter. Lytster was taken, hanged, drawn, and quartered; one quarter being set up on his own house in Norwich, one in the city, another at Lynn, and the fourth at Yarmouth.\*

The family of Cubitt have held lands at Honing from a very early period. In a "Rental for the Manor of Honing Smalburgh in Honing," appear the names of Andrew Cubitt and Thomas Palmer. William Cubitt, Rector of Hackford, gave in 1479 a drinking house and two acres of land for a yearly obit to be kept in the church. Robert Cubitt was Abbot of St. Bennet at Holme in 1487; John Cubitt died Vicar of Instead in 1496, and was a benefactor to the pariah. John Cubitt was Vicar of Barton in 1497. Robert Cubitt married Beatrice, daughter of Andrew Fountaine of Narford *circa* 1570.† Benedict Cubitt, son of Robert Cubitt, was Bailiff of Yarmouth in 1566 and 1578. Benedict Cubitt, his son, was bailiff in 1588. Thomas Cubitt, son of

\* See *F.* pp. 72, 153 and *M.* p. 143.

† William Cubitt, twice Lord Mayor of London, and for many years M.P. for Andover, was born at Buxton in Norfolk in 1791. In early youth he served for a short time in the royal navy; but subsequently became a builder, in which trade he acquired a large fortune.

the latter, settled at South Repps in 1620, having married Diana, daughter of John Housegoe of Lynn; and their son, John Cubitt, married Mary Neave of Yarmouth. He was a member of the corporation in 1626, and opposed the attempted change of local government. In 1635 he was appointed to the disagreeable task of collecting ship money in the first and second north-mid wards.\* He was named an alderman in the charter of Charles II., and in 1664 was elected bailiff, but before his term of office expired he died of the plague, and Nathaniel Ashbye was elected to supply his place until the new bailiffs should come into office at the ensuing Michaelmas.† Andrew, his son,



married Elizabeth, daughter and sole heir of William Lynn, lord of the Manor of Bintree in Norfolk,‡ by whom he had a son, Benjamin Cubitt, who was the common ancestor of the Cubitts of Catfield and Honing in Norfolk, and Fritton in Suffolk. They bear *sa.*, a bow and arrow *arg.*; and for a crest, a man's dexter arm clothed in armour, holding an arrow fessways *ppr.*

In 1640 Thomas Thompson gave two tenements in the Conge for the habitation of four poor widows. He served the office of bailiff in 1614, and in that capacity presented the king, on behalf of the town, with one hundred *jacobuses* in token of respect. The churchwardens in that year distributed one thousand tokens among those who received Holy Communion; which tokens were not of much intrinsic value, for the whole cost was but 2s. 6d. Thompson was again bailiff in 1623. He was commended by the Bishop of Norwich for his careful and religious discharge of his duty in discovering and surprising ungodly and dangerous conventicles, of which good service the bishop intended, as he informed him, very speedily to acquaint the king. Acting as he says under the advice of the judges of assize, the bishop then required the

\* In 1647 John Cubitt, a member of the corporation, was dismissed from office, he having "removed his habitation out of the town" for one whole year; thereby escaping the grievous burthens which the town had to sustain during the civil war.

† William Cubitt, in 1627, gave by will £10 to the poor.

‡ See Byche's *Visitation*.



*Cubitts?*



bailiffs to send to him, "under strong and safe guard of the constables," seven men and one woman (whose names are appended to the letter), and suggests that the sabbath day would be the most meet for the finding of them. He asks by what means Thomas Coyme, who was "the leader of the wicked company" previously arrested, had been set at liberty, although this man had taken upon himself "to pray against the bailiffs and their authority at the assembly when they were commanded to cease." He also required to be informed of the number assembled when found by the bailiffs' officers—who was their expounder—what his text was—and the matter whereof he treated—what was said when the officers came upon them—and whether the assembly was broken up by a prayer and the effect of it. In a postscript the bishop quaintly says, "You, Mr. Bailiffs, are by the lords the judges trusted with the execution of this great business, and therefore it will deeply concern you to see that no tricks by arrest of their persons or otherwise be used to defeat the king's service; to-morrow is your day, fittest for performance of this duty, and you must be secret and wary that it be not talked of till it be done." Notwithstanding the urgency of this letter, the bailiffs did not act upon it, wisely considering that the bishop's letter was not a legal and sufficient warrant. By his will, Thompson gave 20s. per annum for two sermons to be preached yearly at Sherringham.

In the immediate vicinity was *Gurney's Conge*, already mentioned.

A person rejoicing in the name of Onias Philipppo had a house opposite the east end of the Conge, in front of which, in 1687, he had leave to place posts with a pent-house over them.\*

Now, No. 24, from *Charlotte Street* to the *Market Place*, called the *Blue Anchor Row*, from a public house at the south-east corner, fronting the Market place.† At the south-west corner there is a public-house formerly called *The Spread Eagle*.‡

\* This was the way in which shop fronts were first brought out to the footway or pavement. Elisha Philipppo was High Sheriff of Norfolk in 1675. He and Isabel his wife both died in 1678, and lie buried in St. Saviour's church, Norwich. Onias, his brother, died in 1693, aged 67. They bore *arg.*, a chev. betw. three roses *gs.*

† An anchor is the well-known symbol of hope, and blue is her emblematic color.

‡ The eagle, dedicated by the ancients to Jupiter, was always considered the king

**Row, No. 25.** This row leads from the south-east corner of the *Conge* to *Charlotte Street*. It was formerly called *Fighting-Cock Row*, from the sign of a public house facing the *Conge*, afterwards called *The Coach and Horses*, and now the *Golden Lion*. In a house adjoining lived a man with the strange name of Midsummer Calf. It has also been called *Doughty's Row*.\* In front of this row, towards the west, is the open space called the *Conge*, already mentioned. The public house called the *Dolphin Tavern*,† and also a granary in the *Conge* belong to the church.

**Row, No. 26,** from *Charlotte Street* to the *Market Place*. At the north-east corner of this row there is an old house, with a modern front, very substantially built in the style of the early part of the last century. Here resided Parson Custance, surgeon, who died in 1781, aged 45.‡ In 1814 the above-mentioned house was the residence of William Taylor, Esq., a popular surgeon; and in 1822 it was purchased by James Pearson Smith, Esq., M.D.§ The next possessor was Mr. Harry

of birds. The Romans, and in modern times the French, bore it on their standards. An eagle displayed was adopted by the Emperors of Germany as an emblem of their power, and it had two heads denoting a dominion over both east and west.

\* The name of Doughty has been of some continuance. William Doughty of Yarmouth voted for Astley and De Grey at the Norfolk election in 1714, in respect of a freehold at Scratby.

† This was an old sign. A "poet," writing in 1764, complains,  
 "Nor for my notes, however clear,  
 "Will the gay *Dolphin* give me beer."

The dolphin was considered a sacred fish by the ancients, and was consecrated to the gods. See the story of Orion as related by Ovid. In this country it was formerly considered a delicacy; and was also used as an armorial bearing.

‡ He was at that time filling the office of chamberlain. A new election had to take place, and Mr. James Fisher was chosen. He had a son drowned off Ushant in 1799 from a French privateer captured by H. M. S. *Clyde*; and another son, Thomas, also an officer of the *Clyde*, died at Plymouth in 1801. John and Parson, the two eldest sons, also died in the naval service of their country. Martha, the widowed mother, died in 1830, aged 85. A family of this name, seated in Norfolk from the commencement of the sixteenth century, bore *or.*, an eagle displayed *gu.*, charged on the breast with a star of six points of the first. John Custance of Yarmouth voted at the county election in 1714 for Sir Ralph Hare and Erasmus Earle.

§ He was the son of Simon Smith by Mary Alice his wife, daughter of Mr. William Mallett. He married in 1814 Anne, only child and heir of Mr. Wm. Bell of Ormesby.

Worship, surgeon, who died in 1859, aged 49. The ground floor has since been converted into a shop, now occupied by Mr. Simon Norman, cabinet maker. Adjoining to the north is a house and shop for many years occupied by Mr. Borrett Gooch, a dealer in old and curious books, of which he always had a large stock. He died in 1866 at Weston super Mare, aged 86.\* At the south-west corner is a public house formerly called the *Griffin*, and after that the *Duke of York*. This house was purchased in 1739 by William Browne, Esq., of John Kett of Wymondham, surgeon.†

Row, No. 27, from *George Street* to *Charlotte Street*, formerly called *Well Row*, because about half way up, in an adjoining yard, there was a well of great depth, the water from which was considered so good that it was resorted to by all the neighbours.‡ In this row dwelt David Service, "a poet." By birth a Scotchman,§ and by trade a cobbler, he came to Yarmouth, where he attracted the notice of Dr. Girdlestone by writing a poem called the *Caledonian Herd Boy*. He had considerable natural genius, and some power of versification, but like many other

\* Dressed in a long brown frock coat, white cravat, drab knee breeches and leggings, Mr. Gooch worthily represented the bibliopolist of the last century.

† The Kerrs of Wymondham are renowned for having produced those "arch-traitors and famous,—yes rather," quoth Manship, "infamous rebels," Robert Kett and William his brother, who put themselves at the head of a "rabblement of rude rascals" at Wymondham, marched upon Norwich, and threatened Yarmouth, having first cunningly surprised the two bailiffs and conveyed them to the rebel camp, from which however they escaped, and fortified the town so strongly against the insurgents that the latter could not prevail; for which the bailiffs had the thanks of the Lord Protector Somerset and the Lords of the Council in a letter dated the 26th July, 1549, long preserved in the hutch, but which has now disappeared.

‡ In 1639 it was ordered that Edward Wiggote's pale in the Well row be pulled down, and the ground laid open as theretofore.

§ Born at Cardross in Dumbartonshire in 1776. At his humble dwelling in the above row he exhibited the following distich:—

Old boots and shoes cheaply,  
Are here repair'd neatly,  
As if for brave Admiral Jervis.  
For strength they're intended,  
And well they are mended  
For cash paid to me.—DAVID SERVICE.



"sons of song" he was of intemperate habits and unhappy in domestic life. One of his poetical productions was a tour to all the public houses in Yarmouth, giving a description of each. He frequented them too much; and in 1816 he was placed in the stocks, being one of the last persons who underwent that punishment. He was a political song writer, and a master of vituperation; but some of his productions were not without pathos. He composed a *Tributary Ode* to Adam Glendenning, a mathematician of considerable ability and of amiable character, who died in Yarmouth in 1820, aged 52. One of his best compositions was a monody to the memory of the Princess Charlotte, whose death in childhood, in 1817, produced a profound sensation. One of the stanzas ran as follows:—

"No smiling infant met her sight,  
 "Repaying each maternal pain;  
 "For—ne'er to view the morning's light,  
 "Her eyes were seal'd in endless night,—  
 "Her breath had fled in vain!  
 "Alas! it had been sweet to give  
 "Her life to bid her infant live;  
 "To bless him with her dying breath,  
 "Had soften'd e'en the pang of death."

Service died in 1828 in Yarmouth workhouse, aged 52, and was buried in St. Nicholas' churchyard, where there is a stone with an inscription to his memory.

Row, No. 28, from *North Quay* to *George Street*, being the first row south of the *Conge*, and called *Conge Row*. An old house fronting George street extends over the east end of this row, upon which appears the date 1608 in iron figures. Next but one to the north-east corner of the *Conge* and fronting George street, is the *Princess Charlotte* public house, formerly called *The Fighting Cocks*, afterwards *The Moon and Stars*; and further on, fronting George street, is a public house (No. 104) called the *Grapes*. On the north side of this row there were, in 1661, some alms houses and some "ground belonging to the Hospital of the Blessed Mary the Virgin.\*

\* Some years ago a man, named Cockerell, in attempting to escape the police, concealed himself in a chimney in this row, where he stuck fast; and the chimney had to be taken down in order to release him.

Martha Stanninot, commonly called Queen Martha, "an extraordinary madwoman" (as she is styled in the *Gentleman's Magazine*, vol. 58, p. 125), who fancied herself Queen of England, resided in this row, and died there in 1788. When at church she would remain quiet until the prayer for the king, when she shrieked out "No George!" She sometimes walked to Norwich to call on the bishop; and even went on foot to London, and obtained an interview with Lord North, when prime minister, who with great quickness and pleasantry sent her home quite happy with the assurance "that the next cart full of money which should come into the town was intended for her." She was supported by an allowance from the town, which she treated as a benevolence from her subjects. See Kirby's *Remarkable Characters*, iii. p. 59.

Row, No. 29, from *Charlotte Street* to the *Market Place*, called *Half Moon Row*, from a tavern with that sign, standing at the north-east corner, which in 1788 was in the possession of William Shreeve. This row is sometimes called *King's Head North Row*, from the tavern standing at the south-east corner.\* At the west end of this row, fronting *Charlotte street*, there is a public house called the *Queen's Head*.

Row, No. 30, from *Nine Parish Row* to *George Street*, called *Wheel of Fortune Row*,† from a public house at the north-west corner. In a shop in *George street*, near this public house, in 1742 John Auger was shot by John Thaker, for which crime the latter was hanged. Fronting *George street* (No. 25) is a public house called the *Golden Lion*.

Row, No. 31, from *North Quay* to *George Street*, is called the *Nine*

\* Charles Johnson, who kept this house for some years, died in 1828, aged 90. Elizabeth, his second daughter, in 1806, married Lieut. John Cameron, R.N., commander of the *Swan* cutter. In 1772 a main of cocks was fought at the *King's Head*, between the Gentlemen of Norfolk and Suffolk.—*Norfolk Chronicle*.

† The *Wheel of Fortune* was depicted by the Greeks with two wings to typify inconstancy. The Romans cut the wings off, to denote that fortune had fixed herself with them. *St. Catherine's Wheel* was also a popular sign in mediæval days, because it was the badge of an order of knights created for the protection of pilgrims, and therefore implied that, in the Inn which bore it, travellers were protected, and especially taken care of.

*Parish Row*, but for what reason is unknown.\* It is at one part seven feet six inches wide. At the west end are extensive malthouses, built upon what is supposed to have been a garden belonging to the Carmelites. Beneath a modern cottage on the south side of this row, there is a small cellar or underground apartment of great antiquity. It is approached by a few steps descending from a yard on the north side, the present flooring being about four feet below the surface. On the south wall there are two low depressed arches, formed of brick and filled in with rubble; and at the east end is a niche, closely resembling a piscina, covered by an ogee arch formed of moulded bricks. The east wall is divided by two arches which appear, at some former time, to have been open, but are now filled in with bricks and rubble. The apex of each of these latter arches is above the present boarded ceiling which forms the floor of the cottage above. The bricks used are those usually called "King John's bricks," about seven inches long and one and a half thick. In the cottage above, which is comparatively modern, there is a very ancient and spacious chimney, the opening to which has been boarded over so as to reduce it to the requirements of a small stove, the vacant space being used as a closet or cupboard; and upon removing the modern woodwork in 1865 this fireplace was found to admeasure seven feet eight inches, having a carved spandril at each end.† Of the history of this building, which belongs to Mr. John Trueman Buston, nothing is known; but the White Friars or Carmelites had possessions in the neighbourhood. On the opposite side of *North Quay Road* there is a house, standing back, which was for some years occupied by Mr. John Eager, dancing master, and organist at St. Nicholas' church. Behind this house he built a large room for the reception of

\* There is in the north-east corner of Suffolk a district called "The Parishes" or "The Nine Parishes;" comprising Flixton, South Elmham St Mary or Homersfield, South Elmham St. George on Sancroft, South Elmham St. Margaret, South Elmham St. Peter, South Elmham St. Michael, South Elmham All Saints, South Elmham St. James, and Rumburgh. Why they are called "The Parishes" is unknown.

† In an old house at the west end of Row, No. 5, there is a chimney so ample in size at its base that within it is a seat on each side. The space thus obtained is called the *chimney-lug*.

his pupils.\* Further south a narrow lane leads to *Bamant's Bowling Green*, already mentioned. In the old electioneering times this was the resort of the tory party, where the leaders made open-air harangues, and the "worthy and independent electors" indulged in beer. In 1817 a passenger steam packet was placed on the river to convey passengers to and from Norwich; and here they were embarked and landed. A rival packet was about the same time employed for a similar purpose. Both vessels, one morning in April, left Norwich at the same time for Yarmouth. On board one of these boats the fires had been made up for the purpose, it was said, of forcing her ahead of the other vessel. The engine was a high pressure one; the safety valve was closed; and the consequence was that the boiler, which was of cast iron, burst.† The vessel had not gone twenty yards from the Foundry bridge at Norwich, when the explosion took place; and she was rent from stem to stern. There were twenty-two passengers on board, of whom five men and three women were killed on the spot. Many were most seriously injured. On being taken to Norwich hospital one woman had both legs amputated; another, one leg. Others were wounded, bruised, and disfigured, whilst some of the passengers had marvellous escapes; one man standing over the boiler at the time of the explosion was uninjured. Diggins, the engineer, died shortly after from the injuries he received. Lieut.-Colonel Mason (then Major of the East Norfolk Militia), hurried down to the boat, intending to go by her to Yarmouth; but was fortunately too late. A serjeant of his regiment

\* In 1794 the Duke of Dorset came to Yarmouth for the benefit of his health. Here he noticed John Eager, then a poor lad, who exhibited remarkable musical talent. The duke took him to Knowle, and kept him there for some time; but unfortunately died suddenly without making any provision for his *protégé*. Young Eager returned to Yarmouth, where he married a daughter of Mr. John Barnby, and pushed his fortunes with considerable success. In 1803 he was appointed organist to St. George's chapel; and in the following year Handel's Oratorio of *Judas Maccabeus* was performed in St. Nicholas' church under his direction. On leaving Yarmouth Mr. Eager settled in Edinburgh, where he died leaving two daughters, of the elder of whom, Mrs. Bridgeman, a good pianist, there is an engraved portrait. The younger married Mr. Lowe, professor of dancing to the royal family.

† The first steam passage boat ever built was the *Comet*, constructed by Henry Bell, and placed on the Clyde in 1812.

who got on board and was blown up, made his way to the rival packet and continued his voyage to Yarmouth.

Row, No. 32, from *Charlotte Street* to the *Market Place*, called *King's Head South Row*, from a tavern at the north-east corner.

Rows, No. 32, 33, and 34, divide the north or St. Nicholas' ward from the Market ward. This division is carried from Row, No. 32, across the Market place and along St. Nicholas' road to the beach; and from Row, No. 34, across North-Quay road along Quay-Mill road to the river.

The town was at an early period divided into wards or districts, which were each to be watched and *warded* by the inhabitants thereof. In 1627 it was found that some wards had become greater than others, "so that the watch being by wards could not well be kept every night by an equal number of men;" and in that year a committee of the corporation was appointed to consider the matter, and their report having been adopted, the town was divided into eight wards and sixteen vintyges, as equally proportioned as could well be. These wards were called—the first north, second north, first north midd, second north midd, first south, second south, first south midd, second south midd; the latter and the second north midd meeting in the centre of the town. This arrangement continued until the passing of the Municipal Corporation Act, 1835, when the parish was divided into five wards, each returning six representatives to the town council.

By the old law every inhabitant was liable to take his turn in night watching; and did so for many years. In process of time the richer classes served by substitutes, and gradually all personal watching ceased, the several inhabitants paying a composition levied by the corporation who appointed and paid the watchmen. In 1776 it was found that a large number of householders would neither watch themselves nor pay the rate, leaving the corporation to bear the expense. The only remedy was to indict such persons at the sessions for not watching; "a course very dilatory and expensive," and the result of this state of things was an application to Parliament to enable certain commissioners to levy rates on all the inhabitants for paving, lighting, and watching the town.



Swanborough pin 1836.

C.J.W. Winter del.

JOSEPH CURTIS.



In the second house on the north side of Row, No. 32, resided in the last century Josiah Curtis, who filled the office of town crier or bellman, as he was usually called, for thirty-two years. He was appointed in 1786; Samuel Bowles, his predecessor, having been suspended for "ill behaviour" in the previous year. He was the last who wore the ancient dress, consisting of a long loose blue cloth coat, open at the neck and fastened round the waist by a leather girdle, knee breeches, white stockings, and shoes with large buckles. Over his dress was slung a leather case containing his big bell, the strap being adorned by a silver escutcheon of the town arms. On his head he wore a three-cornered cocked hat. He was an officer of the corporation, and on state occasions carried a huge staff with a silver knob. Curtis had a stentorian voice and pompous manner. He prefixed every "cry," however trivial the subject, with "O yes! O yes! O yes!" (a corruption of the ancient *O yes*—hear ye—the usual prelude to a proclamation in the olden time) and concluded with "God save the king." He was the son of Josiah Curtis, hair dresser and parish sexton (an odd mixture of trades), who died in 1803, aged 89, by Elizabeth his wife, who died in 1799, aged 86. Robert, another son, a cordwainer in Middlegate street, died in 1831, in his 80th year. The family are said to have greatly impoverished themselves by their excessive love of beer, which habit however does not appear to have shortened their lives. Curtis himself was believed capable of imbibing an unlimited quantity during his daily rounds. He never failed to pour a small portion of the liquor upon the ground if in the open air; but probably did not know that by so doing he was observing an old pagan custom, dating from a very remote period, of making a propitiatory offering to mother earth.\* When he had drained a mug to the bottom, he would look into it and facetiously observe that he saw Moll Thompson's mark—M. T.—(*empty*).† Curtis

\* The custom still lingers at the doors of country alehouses. *Teste me ipso.*

† He sang the old song—

"O ale! *ab alendo*, thou liquor of life!

"That I had but a mouth as big as a whale!

"For mine is too little, to tell the least tittle,

"Of all the fine things that belong to good ale."

Bellmen were probably subject to great inducements to drink. When William Smith



died in 1818, aged 74.\* There is a small full-length portrait of him in his official dress by Swanborough in the possession of Francis Worship, Esq., from which the annexed engraving is taken.

The Yarmouth family of CURTIS, traced their descent from the Rev. Henry Curtis, who was instituted to the Vicarage of Martham in 1683, and died in 1694. He bore chec. *arg.* and *sa.*, and for a crest a goat's head. He left two sons, John and Nicholas. The former was a member of the corporation, and served the office of churchwarden in 1694. William Curtis was one of those who, in 1626, were for upholding the ancient form of government in the town; and he was a supporter of Brinsley.



Robert Curtis was a common councilman, named in the charter of Charles II.† Ives, writing in 1735, says "Dyed Aunt Curtis of Gorleston. She made my father executor and left me £50;" and a few days afterwards "we were all at the burial of Aunt Curtis;" and he describes the sale of her "household stuff," and the distribution of her effects. John Curtis (whose father was of the Yarmouth family, and had settled as a merchant at Bristol) was M.P. for Wells.‡

was appointed in 1703, he was enjoined "to keep himself sober, and to come to church forenoon and afternoon."

\* It was a very ancient custom here, as in many other cities and boroughs, for the bellman, at the close of the year, to present the inhabitants with a copy of verses, for which he expected to receive a Christmas box. It was also usual for boys to go about at Christmas singing at the door of every house where they were likely to obtain a "box." One of these carols began with—

" Good master and good mistress,  
" All in this house, I pray,  
" Remember Christ our Saviour,  
" Was born on Christmas day."

Dunton, in his *Athenian Oracle* (a former sort of *Notes and Queries*), says that the practice of giving presents at Christmas is as old as the time of the Romans, who observed it at their Saturnalia. That Christ's-mass might be celebrated in honor of the Nativity, persons were allowed to go about with boxes, and the money so collected went, before the reformation, to the priests, and not into the pockets of the collectors.

† John Curtis, a baker, in 1662 issued copper tokens for the convenience of trade.

‡ The family is now represented by Mr. Charles Curtis of Lowestoft, whose father was engaged in the Lowestoft China Manufactory. He has in his possession

*Note*, No. 33, from *George Street* to *Charlotte Street*. Adjoining this row, and abutting upon Middlegate street, there were many messuages, warehouses, and fish offices, which in 1698 were the property of John Harmer, only son and heir of John Harmer, merchant, from whom they passed to Thomas Manning (hosier), son of the Rev. William Manning of Middleton in Suffolk, one of the ejected ministers, who died in 1711, aged 81.\* Thomas Manning† married Sarah, daughter of William Coulson of Swanton Abbott, Norfolk, and settled the above-mentioned property upon their son, William Manning, merchant (who died in 1768, aged 72), on his marriage in 1721 with Ann, only daughter of Samuel Allison of Yarmouth, sailmaker, who died in 1740, aged 39. The issue of this marriage was William Manning, merchant, who inherited the wealth of his uncle, Dr. Manning, an eminent physician at Norwich. He married in 1767 Hester, daughter of George Smyth of Topcroft hall,‡ by Mary his wife, daughter of John Churchman of Illington in Norfolk,§ who was the son of Azias Churchman, by Hester his wife, a daughter of Sir John Cope. He had a house on the South quay, but during the latter part of his life resided principally at Ormesby, where he died in 1825, aged 93. His wife

a large collection of Lowestoft china; and a circular ivory snuff box with an exquisite painting on the lid by Sir Joshua Reynolds, who presented it to the Rev. Robert Potter, Vicar of Lowestoft, with whom he was connected, Samuel Reynolds, the father of Sir Joshua, who was a clergyman and schoolmaster at Plympton in Devonshire, having married Theophila, daughter of the Rev. Mr. Potter, by Theophila his wife, only child of the Rev. Thomas Baker, Vicar of Bishop's Nympton in Devonshire. Mary, Sir Joshua's sister, married John Palmer, Esq., of Torrington. Mr. Charles Curtis is also possessed of two silver rings dug up in Yarmouth churchyard, one having a crucifix in high relief.

\* Of this remarkable man there is an account in Wallace's *Antitrinitarian Biography*; and in the *Monthly Repository* for 1817. After his ejection he gathered together a Nonconformist congregation at Middleton.

† He voted at the Norfolk election of 1714 for Sir Jacob Astley and Mr. De Grey.

‡ This family of Smyth came from North Nibley in Gloucestershire, and bore *az.* on a chev. eng. betw. six crosses pattée, fitchée *or.*, as many fleurs de lis *az.*

§ The Churchmans of Illington were descended from John Churchman, citizen of London, who in 1387 purchased lands there, which continued with his posterity for many generations. They bore *arg.*, two bars, in chief as many pellets, *az.*

died in 1806, aged 60; and they are both buried in the churchyard of Ormesby St. Michael.\*

**Row**, No. 34, from *North Quay* to *George Street*, called *Quay Mill Row*, because a post windmill, named the Quay mill, formerly stood opposite to it upon the ground adjoining the river. This mill, which is depicted in Corbridge's map, with the mill house, granaries, and other buildings belonging to it, remained standing until 1799, when the property was conveyed by Robert Pettit† and others to William Palgrave, Esq., who sold it to Mr. Howes, by whom the mill was taken down, and a dwelling house erected which, in 1810, was purchased by the late Edmund Preston, Esq.,‡ who greatly enlarged the house, which he called Milmount, and laid out the grounds as a garden extending to the river;§ and here he was accustomed to entertain his friends annually on the evening of the Water Frolic. He was a solicitor;|| filled the

\* "He was," we are told by his epitaph, "a man whose character was distinguished by a steady and zealous support of civil and religious liberty, and adorned by the purest morality and most unaffected piety." A good portrait of Mr. Manning, when in his eighty-third year, painted by Clover, was in the possession of his grandson, Mr. Henry Fellows, who died in 1870, aged 68. He had also a portrait of Dr. Manning of Norwich.

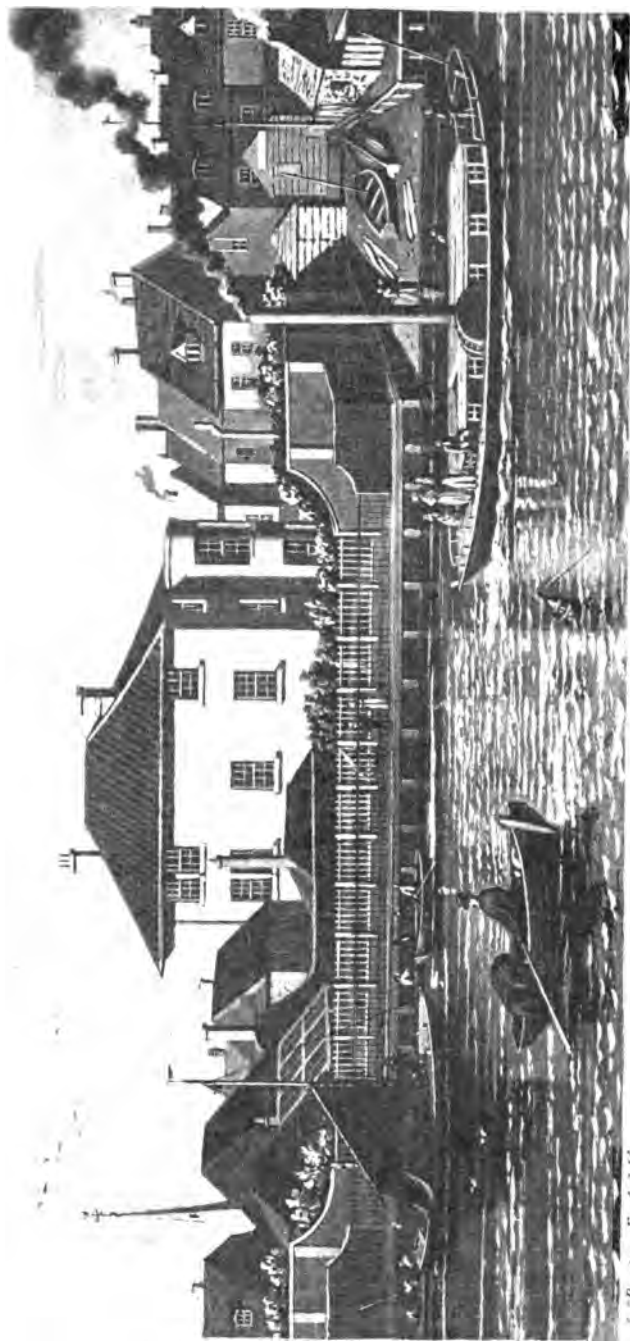
† Mr. Pettit, probably of French extraction, was a teacher of music.

‡ Besides the flourishing town of Preston in Lancashire, there are of this name thirty-five places in England and seven in Scotland, which have given patronymics to numerous families. The word means "Priest's Town." At a time when the country was thinly populated, each priest had his circuit, and his residence was "the Priest's Town." At Preston (*Prestetona*) in Suffolk there was an ancient family so called who migrated to Norfolk, and settled at Beeston St. Lawrence in the 17th century. They bore *erm.*, on a chief *sa.*, three crescents *or.*; and for a crest, a crescent *or.*, with the motto *Pristinum spero lumen*. Another family of this name adopted as a motto *Præsto ut præstem*.

§ The site is now occupied by the extensive store of Sir E. Lacon and Sons.

|| It was no uncommon thing towards the close of the last century for gentlemen to have artistic designs upon their visiting cards. Blake, the painter, mentions having designed one of these cards for Mr. Cumberland of Bristol, who at that time was one of his best patrons. Both Sir Joshua Reynolds and Hogarth adopted this fashion, which even penetrated to Yarmouth, as may be seen by the annexed engraving of a card which was used by Mr. Preston early in the present century.

John Henry Druery, Esq., wrote his *Historical and Topographical Notices of Great Yarmouth*, when in the office of Mr. Edmund Preston. The work was published by Meggy in 1826. Mr. Druery, who was a native of Gorleston, was called to the bar and, joining the Norfolk circuit, took up his residence at Norwich.



*Barnett Sculp.*

*Albion House.*

*See Fronton Eng. and.*



office of mayor in 1818 and 1830; was a deputy-lieutenant for Norfolk; and died in 1856, aged 80. He married (first) Phillis, only surviving child of Jonathan Symonds, Esq., who died in 1805, aged 26, by whom he had two sons, James Symonds Preston, who died in 1817, aged 17, and the Rev. Henry Preston; (secondly) Frances Maria, daughter of Thomas Smyth, Esq.,\* of East Dereham, who died in 1822, aged 41, leaving several children; and (thirdly) Hannah, daughter of John Farr, Esq., of Cove hall, Suffolk, who died in 1861, aged 75, s.p.

Milmount house, now occupied by Samuel Nightingale, Esq., who filled the office of mayor in 1860 and 1868, was purchased by Sir Edmund Lacon and Sons, who erected a large brewery store upon the site of the garden, capable of holding about 3,000 barrels.

Adjoining the millyard there was, early in the 18th century, a large timber and shipbuilder's yard belonging to Thomas Horsley.†

\* He died in 1835, aged 87. He claimed descent from Warrenne Smyth of Penahurst in Kent, who died in 1371. Third in descent from him was Thomas Smyth, who purchased an estate in Norfolk, and died in 1504, leaving a son, Sir John Smyth, Baron of the Exchequer, who died in 1540 s.p. Clifford Smyth, brother of Sir John, died in 1537, leaving a son, Symon Smyth, who settled at Blickling in Norfolk, and died in 1591. Fourth in descent from him was James Smyth, a Turkey merchant, born in 1640, who was drowned near the rocks of Scilly on his return from Constantinople. Richard Smyth, elder brother of James, was imprisoned three years in London and heavily fined for seditious words spoken against James II., and died in 1716, aged 71. James Smyth, grandson of the latter, married in 1741 Mary, daughter of Edmund Nelson, upon which occasion an estate at East Dereham was settled, which descended to their only surviving son, the above-named Thomas Smyth, born in 1747, who left no male issue. Louisa, one of his daughters, the wife of Colonel Dickens, R.E., died at Yarmouth in 1842. The arms borne by this family of Smyth were *az.*, a chev. eng. betw. three lions pass. *or.*; and for a crest, a leopard's head erased *arg.*, spotted *sa.*, collared and lined *or.* These arms were granted in 1591 to Thomas Smyth of Ostenhanger in Kent, elder brother of Symon Smyth above mentioned. He married Alice, granddaughter of John Judde, by Margaret his wife, whose mother, Philippa, was daughter of Sir Robert Chichely, brother of the archbishop. This Thomas Smyth died in 1593, and of him there are no descendants. Archbishop Chichely was lord of the Manor of Fakenham in Norfolk, and died in 1443.

† Deals in stacks and ships on the stocks may be seen in Corbridge's and Buck's Views. Horsley is said to have built "a new bark" for himself every year. At the Norfolk election in 1714 he voted for Sir Ralph Hare and Erasmus Earle. He filled the office of mayor in 1738, and died in 1749, aged 78, "worth £40,000," as the announcement of his death in the newspapers informs us, when the family

On the south side of Row, No. 34, were three alms houses, sold in 1842 by the Guardians of the Poor. On the north side were the *Cherry-Tree Tea Gardens*, formerly much frequented by the public. The garden-house, still standing, but divided into two occupations, has four dormer windows; with the original round chimneys at each end. In one of the rooms on the ground floor is a painting upon the panel over the fireplace; a usual ornament in houses of a similar date. Until the present century the vinery belonging to these gardens remained standing.

Adjoining and extending over the east end of this row, and facing George street, is an old house with the date, 1638, in iron figures on the front, and the letters T F, formed into a house mark. At the north-west corner there is a public house formerly called *The Quay Mill*, afterwards the *Hunter Cutter*, and now the *Pleasure Boat*. At the south-west corner is a house some time occupied by Capt. Grint, R.N.

In an old house in George street, now divided into two occupations, resided James Sancroft, surgeon, who died in 1840, aged 80.\*

Row, No. 35, from *Charlotte Street* to the *Market Place*, called the *Globe Row*, from a disreputable public house at the south-west corner, now silenced. There was a very old house at the north-west corner, overhanging the row and having some ornamental ironwork in front;† and at the back a large Elizabethan window. At the south-east corner, facing the *Market place*, is an old house with a modern



became extinct; his only son, Samuel Horsley, having died four days previously, aged 53, s.p. His hatchment still hangs in the chancel of Yarmouth church, bearing—*gu.*, three horses passant, two and one *arg.*

\* He is said to have greatly resembled the portraits of Archbishop Sancroft, but he could not have been, as reported, descended from him as the archbishop died unmarried. Mr. Sancroft (who was the son of a respectable house painter) married Anne Leach, granddaughter and heiress of John Haselum of Cambridge. She predeceased her husband in 1830, aged 67. Sancroft was the last archbishop who kept a state barge on the Thames. In 1691 he was conveyed in it from Lambeth Palace to the Temple, when he was ejected. He retired to Fressingfield in Suffolk, where he died in 1693.

† This house was taken down in 1870. See the annexed engraving of it by Winter.



*Preston?*





front; but behind the shop one of the original apartments remains very perfect. It is wainscotted with a richly-carved wooden chimney piece, bearing on the frieze the date, 1640, and the letters J.<sup>R</sup>. S. the initials of John Rowe and his wife.\* In the latter part of the last century this house was occupied by DANIEL BOULTER. He was a member of the Society of Friends, and kept a shop in which he sold "Birmingham, Wolverhampton, Sheffield, and Pontipool goods in the silversmith, jewellery, cutlery, and toy line," with "stationery wares, haberdashery, gloves, perfumery, and patent medicines." He also dealt in "natural curiosities, antiquities, coins, medals, curious books," and many other articles. During a long and useful life he made an extensive collection of "natural and artificial curiosities," together with some paintings, prints, drawings, and books. The whole he called the "MUSEUM BOULTERIANUM," and published a catalogue of it. He died in 1802, and was interred in the Friends' burial ground. His collections were then dispersed.† There is a portrait of him which has been engraved. The above-mentioned house was, early in the present century, occupied by James Harman, hosier, and on his death it passed to Mr. Robert Breeze, ironmonger, who died in 1864, aged 77.‡ The Manclarke

\* He was bailiff in 1622 and 1637. He was one of those who in 1648 declared for "King and Parliament," and he subscribed £20 in money and plate towards the fund then raised "for the payment of soldiers and provision of horses, arms, and ammunition for the defence of King and Parliament;" the opposition to the royal authority being scrupulously conducted in the king's name. He however acquiesced in, if he did not actively promote, the restoration, for his name appears among the aldermen nominated by the charter granted by King Charles II.; and in 1669 he again filled the office of bailiff.

† It is much to be regretted that the opportunity thus afforded was not embraced of forming the commencement of a town museum; but at that time the war—money making—and social enjoyments were the only things thought of. He issued a tradesman's token of superior workmanship, which is now rare (*P. C.*, p. 103). Among other things in Boulter's museum was "a full-sized bust of Oliver Cromwell in "terra-cotta, the eyes of glass, and the whole a wonderful imitation of life." Also a "very curious ancient pair of bellows, ornamented on the top with a variety of figures "in alto-relievo, representing a fox in the habit of a Dominican friar preaching to "animals," which article had been in the collection of the Earl of Yarmouth.

‡ He will be remembered as a table singer; which accomplishment added to the esteem in which he was held, rendered him a welcome guest at convivial meetings.

family (already mentioned p. 167) had property in this row.\* In the *Globe Row* there lived a woman who was prosecuted in 1866 for neglecting her infant.†

\* William Thomas Manclarke, solicitor, son of R. B. Manclarke, Esq., of Pulham, Town Clerk of the newly-constituted Borough of Barrow-in-Furness, died in 1871, at the early age of 34.

† The mother left the child locked up in her house while she went to Bungay, and it might have perished but for the exertions of a man named Money, who was the principal witness against her at the trial, and his narration of the circumstances is here given as a specimen of Yarmouth dialect—Money was a jobbing bricklayer, or in his own words, a man “Vot do odd jobs to housen”—“Vell you must know “as how I vos axed to go and do a little job of bricklayerin to two or tree housen vot “are in the *Globe Row*, don’t you see. Vell I went airy in the mornin, it might be “a little afore or it might be a little arter six, but it vornt much effer vay; how- “sumdever I hadn’t been at vork very long afore I heer’d a child a cryin, and I saas “to myself, saas I, that child must be in Sally ———’s house; howsumdever I didn’t “think much aboutit then, as I sposed Sally ———’s sister, vot lived in the next row, “knewd that the child vos left all alone, bliss its little ‘art; and I s’pected she vud “come and see arter it afore long, and take it away to her own house, don’t you see? “as I heard that Sally vos gone to Bungay to see her chap, vot is the father o’ this “ere blissed babe. Vell, you know, I vent on vith my vork right up to breakfast time, “and the poor little thing vos still a cryin, and ven I come back I still heer’d it, so I “saas to myself, saays I, I’ll go and tell Sally ———’s sister aboutit, and so I goes “into the next row, and the very first person I see was Polly ———, and I saas to “her, I saas, Polly, yar sister’s child a been a cryin ever since afore six and aint left “off once, so you’d better go and see arter it, or the poor little thing will cry itself to “dade; vell, all she said vos, ‘let the ——— little brat cry itself to dade, for its no use “you’re comin arter me, I shorn’t go to it nor have nothin to do vuth it, so there!’ “Vell, I didn’t know vot to do, as the house vos locked up. Howsumdever, I vent “back to my vork, and vos at vork a long while, and the little thing vos still a cryin, “but all of a sudden like, I never heer’d it, so I saas to myself, says I, so help me, “———, if that poor little thing aint gone and cried itself to dade. Vell, I “didn’t know vot to do, as I didn’t like to bust other people’s housen open, but “towards the arternoon I see’d a vummun a comin down the row, as I knowd, and “her name, don’t you see, is Ria Bowler, so I saas to Ria, says I, Ria, aint you a “sucklin on a babe, and Ria saas to me, she vos; so I saas to her, vell, that there “mawther, Sally ———, a bin and left her poor little child ever since afore six in the “mornin, and it a been a cryin the whole dae, till a little vile ago, ven it stopped “all on a sudden, and I believe a cried itself to dade; so if you’ll come along o me, “Ria, I’ll bust the door open. Vell, I bust the door open, and if you’d a seen the “sight that ve did you’d never a forgorit; I never shall, I do think. Ven ve bust “open the door there laid the poor little thing a kinder soakin on the bed, and “kivered with filth. Howsumdever, Ria didn’t care for that, for she took the poor



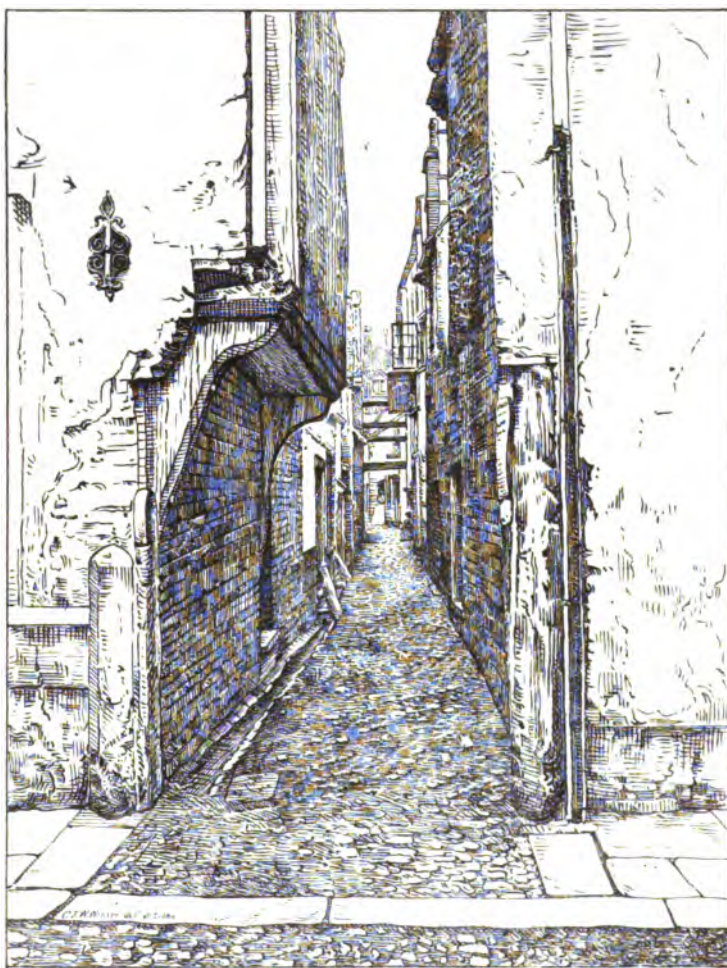


**Notes**, No. 36, from *George Street to Charlotte Street*. At a house on the north side of this row, with a small enclosed garden in front, resided for many years CORNELIUS GIRLING HARLEY, who died in 1843, aged 75. Mr. Harley (son of Robert Harley of Yarmouth) was by nature endowed with a vigorous mind, and was well read in many subjects; especially chemistry, history, and geography. This was the more remarkable, as he had from his birth been afflicted with a defect in the organs of sight, an attempt to cure which in early life by an operation, had caused the loss of one eye and was unproductive of benefit to the other. In addition to this misfortune, his frame was of so weak a nature as to unfit him for many of the common employments of life; but he possessed a most active and enquiring mind, and applied himself vigorously to its cultivation. His infirmity of sight was no barrier to the acquirements of knowledge, for his friends were delighted to read to him; and they had in return the benefit of his pleasant and sage remarks. His memory was remarkably retentive, and his judgment clear and sound. Many young people, sons and daughters of his intimate friends, were also, much to their advantage, accustomed to read with him. These he attached by his cheerfulness and kind-heartedness, while he rendered

"dear up to her buzum, and if you'd a seen the gowerous manner that it seized the vummin's breast you never vuld have forgorit—I shornt I know. Vell, Ria saad "the babe must be tuk care on, and ven I told her Sally's sister vudn't have "nothin to do vuth it, she saad, then, Money, you'd better fetch a policeman, vich "I did, and we all vent to the Stashun house vith the child, vich vos a sucklin all "the vay. Arterwards ve took it to the Verkus, where it is now well-looking arter. "I shall allus believe that if it hadn't been for me and Ria, that child wouldn't a "been alive at this precious moment."

The inhabitants of Yarmouth being much isolated had a *patois* distinct from that which prevailed in Norfolk and Suffolk, the three modes of pronunciation being different. These peculiarities of language, once prevalent to some extent in all ranks, are fast wearing away, but are still observable. Syllas Neville says that when on a journey to Scotland in 1771, he having observed to the landlord "We are going away," another traveller said "I should have known you anywhere for a Norfolk man by your drawing out the last syllable." "However mistaken he was," says Neville, "in supposing me to be a Norfolk man, I will endeavour in future to avoid any improper Norfolk words or tones." Mr. John G. Nall, who has been indefatigable in his researches on this subject, compiled an *Etymological and Comparative Glossary of the Dialect of East Anglia* which he appended to his *Handbook to Great Yarmouth* published in 1866.

good service by assisting them in their various studies; for his knowledge was very extensive. With the assistance of his young friends he was enabled to keep up a literary correspondence; and he was held in high esteem by many eminent men. He was a strenuous advocate for civil and religious liberty, and for the advancement of science. He was not wholly blind; for there were gleams of light from one eye sufficient to guide his steps. Tall and very spare in person, the shoulders rounded and the head slightly bent, scrupulously dressed in a black coat, white cravat, and drab breeches, his long thin legs clad in white cotton stockings, upon which no speck could be found, with buckles in his well-blackened shoes, Mr. Harley might be seen daily wending his way, by the aid of his stick, to the Public Library, or to the houses of his intimate friends, at which he was always welcome, for, says one of his admirers, his presence "seemed to shed sunlight around him." His head was remarkably fine. It was completely bald, except a small fringe of hair behind from ear to ear, the white skull shining like polished marble. The brow was full of intellect; and the brown eyes deeply set, *seemed*, says the writer from whom this sketch is chiefly taken (a lady who had read with him for years), to look kindly on all. It must, she says, have been the warm heart within from which this love beamed out, for one eye only could see, and that not clearly. Possessed of a small but, for such a philosopher, a sufficient competency, Mr. Harley resided for many years in the above row, his household being managed by a most faithful and attached servant, usually known as "Old Betty," whose greatest ambition was to make their humble abode and all belonging to it a pattern of neatness. After many years the house at the row's end, next and facing Charlotte street, was converted into a beer house. The idle and noisy people by whom it was frequented, would laugh at the "lank" figure of Harley picking his way so carefully to and from his home. Their rude jests vexed his ears, and the annoyances he met with at last compelled him to remove to a house on the Church plain, adjoining the Guild hall, and there he died suddenly without pain, and was buried in the chancel in Yarmouth church, where there is a flat stone with an inscription to his memory. For nearly half a century he kept a daily weather journal. By his will he bequeathed £100 to the



Row, No 35. "Globe Row."





Yarmouth hospital; made a provision for his faithful servant, who had resided with him more than fifty years; and divided the residue of his moderate fortune among those whose society he most esteemed. There is an engraved portrait of him from a drawing by J. P. Davis.\*

Kiosk, No. 37, from *North Quay* to *George Street*, called *Glasshouse Row*, because early in the last century a glass manufactory was carried on here.† At the south-east corner are some very old malthouses extending half way down the row on the south side. Some of these were, early in the 18th century, the property of Samuel Clifton, and afterwards (in 1752) of Charles Le Grys, who died in 1764, aged 64,‡ “a very considerable merchant,” adds the *Norfolk Chronicle*.

\* The family of Harley had been of some continuance in the town, in connection with the trade of a miller. In 1770 the corporation granted a lease for 60 years of a piece of waste ground on the Denes to Mr. William Harley, with liberty to build a flour mill thereon. This was long known as Harley’s mill. Another piece was in 1775 granted to Mr. Richard Harley, who died in 1791, aged 62; soon after which event the following epitaph appeared in the *Norfolk Chronicle* :—

“Stay, passenger, and let a tear  
 “Bedew the heaving sod;  
 “For here must rest for many a year,  
 “The noblest work of God.  
 “Yet when the dreadful trumpet’s sound,  
 “Shall cause the dead to rise,  
 “With never-fading glory crown’d,  
 “It shall ascend the skies.”


† An advertisement in the *Norwich Mercury* for 1758 gave notice that “The glasshouse at Yarmouth has been at work for some time, where persons may be furnished with the best goods of all sorts at reasonable prices.” When Lord Nelson was at Yarmouth, Mr. Absolon presented the hero with two glasses of local manufacture. Glass is not now made in Yarmouth; but large quantities of stones found on the beach are shipped to Newcastle for that purpose.

‡ In 1737 a tallow-house belonging to him was burnt down by his servant leaving a light in a hogahead of new made candles.

One of the daughters and co-heirs of Mr. Le Grys married Benjamin Randall, Esq., who died in 1818, aged 84. A daughter of the latter married Major Stoddart, of the Inniskillen Dragoons, who, when at Limerick in 1813, died in consequence of a fall from his horse, in the arms of his brother officer, C. F. Burton, Esq., of Great Yarmouth, who himself died many years afterwards from the effects of a similar accident. The issue of the last marriage was Lieut.-Col. Charles Stoddart, whose mysterious disappearance at Bokhara (where he is supposed to have been murdered in prison),

Fronting George street on the west side there is a house, standing back, having a paved yard in front, which at the commencement of the present century was the residence of William Palgrave, Esq., jun., before he removed to the house built for him on the South quay. This house was afterwards occupied as a boarding school for young ladies. In 1852 when some workmen were digging a sawpit, in what had previously been a garden at the back of this house, they, at about five feet and a half below the surface, came to a perfect skeleton lying about six inches above the sand, which is found at a depth of about six or seven feet every where in this locality. Fragments of stone mouldings, mullions, and other carvings of an ecclesiastical character have also been turned up here, which circumstances lead to a belief that this locality is not far from the site of the church and convent of the White Friars, of which no vestige above ground remains.

### The White Friars.

HE Friars of the Order of the Blessed Mary the Virgin of Mount Carmel, commonly called Carmelites,\* and also White Friars on account of their dress, which consisted of a white mantle with a loose hood, established themselves in the north part of the town of Yarmouth about

created a great sensation; and to ascertain whose fate the celebrated traveller, Dr. Wolfe, undertook a journey to the East, a narrative of which he published. Colonel Stoddart was well known in Yarmouth; as was also Dr. Wolfe, who preached several sermons in St. Nicholas' church. He was a converted Jew; and married the Lady Georgiana Walpole, daughter of the Earl of Orford. Another daughter of Mr. Randall married Thomas Starling Norgate, Esq.

\* By an inadvertency the word *Cistercians* was used for *Carmelites*, in some copies of the preface first printed for this work. The Cistercians were a reformed Order of Benedictine Monks, who first settled at Cisteaux in the diocese of Chalons. The Carmelites established themselves in Scotland in the reign of Alexander III., and obtained considerable property in the Royal burgh of Banff, which they "fewed" to the inhabitants, many of whom were of rank and station. In 1559 the prior being, as he said in a great "stait," by reason of the then "present contrawarrie," as he termed the Reformation, made over all the possessions of the convent to Sir Walter Ogilvy, of Dunlugus, a knight of great influence, who had then a residence in Banff. He was the direct ancestor of the Lords Banff; the last of whom (the eighth) died in 1803, unmarried, and the title is now dormant.

the year 1278 ; but the precise sites of their convent and church have never been ascertained. Their possessions were large ; and appear to have extended from the north part of the Market place to the river, where there was a quay called White-friars' quay.\* These friars, although professing poverty, and holding indeed no individual property, left no means untried to obtain riches for their houses. Their constant attendance at divine worship, their perpetual austerities and labours, their preachings, and their visits to the sick and dying, acquired for them a reputation for holiness among those large classes who are ever influenced by externals. One means of gain used by them, was the granting letters of fraternity whereby, for a sum of money, rich persons were admitted to some of the supposed spiritual advantages of the brethren, without being compelled to reside within the conventual walls or observe the rules ; and to them and to others the privilege of interment within the Conventual church was conceded, for which a higher price was paid than for a burial within the Parochial church ;—the daily masses performed by the friars for the souls of the dead, being by many esteemed more effectual than those offered by the secular clergy.†

Those who purchased the "Franchise of Sepulchre," as it was called, were sure that their bodies would come in contact with no ignoble dust ; as none were buried within the conventual precincts but such as paid handsomely for the privilege, and the holy brethren themselves.‡ This privilege was obtained *circa* 1309 by Nicholas Castle, for himself and Elizabeth his wife, by Dame Maude, the wife of Sir Thomas Huntingdon, in 1330, and by Sir John de Monte Acuto

\* Some account of the White Friars will be found in the Appendix to *Manchip's History*, p. 425.

† Kennett informs us, p. 626, that Edmund Rede paid the Abbott of Dorchester £20 for letters of fraternity.

‡ The custom still lingers in Scotland ; for down to the present day members of the Episcopal and the Roman Catholic churches still continue to be buried within the precincts of former religious houses. Thus within the walls of the roofless and ruined Abbey of Beaulieu near Inverness, the Mackenzies of Gairlock, the Chisholms of Chisholm, and the Frasers of Lovat are still interred, their monuments exposed to all the fury of the elements.

(Montague) in 1382.\* In 1377 the Carmelites received permission to enlarge their Yarmouth house; and by the end of the fourteenth century they became very rich and powerful; and, if we are to judge by their frequent appearance in the local courts, very arrogant and litigious. In 1309 William de Gaysele pardoned Friar Thomas Bamert, Friar Allan Paston, and Friar John de Martham of this order, for "every trespass committed by them upon his person;" and he agreed not to prosecute them in the Court Christian. Large sums were also gained for saying masses for the souls of the dead and celebrating obits, and annals or anniversaries.† In 1363 Roger Stodeye, apothecary, gave by will four marks of silver to celebrate an annual for his soul and the soul of Agnes his late wife; and John de Beverley gave by will five marks, in 1393, for a similar object; and in the following year Petronilla his wife left the friars twenty shillings to pray for her soul. Other gifts were also numerous. In 1349 William Hutte gave two coverlets and a silver cup "with a pelican;" and John de Yarmouth, a plume bed and other furniture. In the *Continuation to Manship's History*, p. 364, there is a list of the priors and sub-priors of this house. In a roll of the 8th Edward IV., William Stanninghall is called *Vicarius Ordinis Fratrum Carmelitorum*; and in the 12th of the same king, Henry Bokenham is

\* M.S.S. College of Arms, F. 9., Interments.


We know not what epitaph was placed over the grave of this knight, but the following would have been appropriate:—

"When I was young, I ventur'd life and blood,  
 "Both for my king, and for my country's good;  
 "In later years my care was chief to be  
 "Soldier of Him, who shed His blood for me."

John de Montacute was Steward of the Household to Richard II., and was one of the attesting witnesses to the charter granted to Yarmouth by that monarch, as was William de Montacute, Earl of Salisbury. The latter was Plenipotentiary to Hainault; and in 1337 the Yarmouth navy was sent to convey the earl and others to England, which it did; and on its way home captured two Flemish ships laden with men, money, and provisions for Scotland, having the Bishop of Glasgow on board, who died of his wounds.

† To observe with prayers, oblations, and alms, the recurrence of the day upon which any person had died, was termed "keeping the obit." Anniversaries were the yearly returns of the days of the deaths of founders and benefactors; and were to be observed, in gratitude to them, with prayers for the repose of their souls.

mentioned as *Reclusus Ordinis Fratrum Carmelitorum*; and in one of the 14th of the same king, Robert Carleton and Henry Bokenham are recorded as executors to the will of John Jolly, *Nuper Anachorotæ Ordinis Carmelitorum*.\* John Tylney, who was prior of this house in 1435, 1437, and 1455 (both the prior and sub-prior being elected annually) is said by Bale to have adopted "a new kind of preaching," which probably fore-shadowed some of the reformed doctrines.† In 1509 the church and convent were burnt to the ground, there being, it was said, a deficient supply of water;‡ thereby, quoth Manship, saving a labour to those by whom, a few years later, all the conventual buildings in the town were destroyed. Thomas Denton and Robert Nottingham, in 1544, had a grant of all the property which had belonged to the White Friars; and in 1567 they obtained a licence from the Crown until the same was divided and sold.

T the north-east corner of Row, No. 37, there is a large house, the north part of which was, in 1825, fitted up as a chapel for Roman Catholics; the rest of the house being occupied by the resident priest, who at that time was the Rev. Joseph Tate. At the extreme end of the present shop may be seen two carved Corinthian pilasters in wood, which were on each side of the recess which contained the altar. These are said to have been brought from some other chapel; and are good specimens of wood carving. Here mass was celebrated for the first time in this town since the reformation. Behind this house there was a large

\* By a tablet which was in the Carmelite church at Yarmouth, a copy of which has been preserved, it is to be inferred that one of these friars became Bishop of Upsala in Sweden, and lies buried at Abo in Finland.

† At Cambridge, where he filled the divinity chair with much applause, he was called John of Yarmouth. He wrote *An Exposition of the Apocalypse*, a *Compendium of Sentences*, forty-four *Sermons*, some *Scholastic Lectures*, and several tracts.

Robert Bale, of the Carmelite Order in Norwich, studied both at Oxford and Cambridge, and became Prior of the Carmelites at Burnham Norton, where he died in 1503. He wrote *Annales breves ordinis Carmelitorum*. He is not to be confounded with John Bale (*biliacus Balæus*), who was born at Covehithe in Suffolk, and became a carmelite at Norwich, but was afterwards protestant Bishop of Ossory in 1552, and died in 1558. Of him there is an engraved portrait.

‡ *F.*, p.p. 21, 79. Sloane M.S.S., British Museum.

garden, extending about two-thirds of the way down the row, and at the extreme west end there was a summer house. The chapel was dismantled and the premises sold after the erection of the church of St. Mary on Regent road in 1850. The above house is depicted in Corbridge's map as it appeared at the commencement of the last century. It was then in the occupation of Samuel Artis, who died in 1748, aged 67.

At the north-west corner is an old house, now divided into two occupations (No. 5), which was the property and residence of Christopher Eaton, merchant and malster, who died in 1799, aged 76.\*

Between this Row and Row, No. 45, there are two houses which were for many years residences of the FISHER family. The southward-most house, now divided into two occupations, No. 56 and 57, was built about the year 1756 by William Browne, Esq., an opulent merchant and brewer. He was a native of Framlingham, and came to Yarmouth to seek his fortune, in which pursuit he was eminently successful.† He took an active and energetic part in the politics of the borough, putting himself in direct opposition to those who then had the rule, and who were supporters of the Walpole and Townshend interest. He entered the corporation; and in 1744 was elected mayor after the severest struggle on record; the inquest by which he was chosen, according to the custom already mentioned, having been shut up for *ten days* before they could arrive at a verdict; by which time his opponents who had formed the majority were starved into submission.‡ Elated with this

\* He was buried at Bradwell. In 1867 an advertisement appeared in the public papers enquiring for his heir-at-law, who still remains undiscovered. A family of this name had long resided in Yarmouth. Lawronte Eaton, a member of the corporation in 1660, was the third in succession from father to son who had the same baptismal name. In 1757 Christopher Eaton was plaintiff in an action against the collector of customs, which sheds a curious light upon trade as at that time conducted. In order to encourage the manufacture and exportation of malt, and by that means the growth of barley, Government undertook to pay a bounty of 2s. 6d. per quarter upon all malt exported where the barley had been purchased at less than 24s. per quarter. As might have been anticipated, endeavours were unduly made to obtain the bounty; and Eaton succeeded in compelling payment in a case where it was proved that the barley had originally been sold at a price beyond the stipulated amount.

† Nicholas Browne was one of the churchwardens at Framlingham in 1661.

‡ It is not to be supposed that men however determined could hold out for such

success, Mr. Browne, at the general election of 1754, joined his influence in the town to that of Mr. Fuller, and personally opposed the re-election of the Right Honorable Charles Townshend, the brilliant wit and orator, and Sir Edward Walpole, K.B., son of the late prime minister.\* In this he was not successful; and probably convinced of the hopelessness of

a length of time unless the following oath taken by the serjeants, "to keep the inquest," had been, by some means or other, violated. "*You shall keep this inquest without meat, drink, fire, and candle (other than what is usually allowed by the town). You shall not suffer them, nor any of them, to speak to any person nor any one to speak to them, unless it is yourselves, and that only to ask them whether they be agreed of their verdict or not.*" Persons who expected to be on the inquest, and to have a "long lay," provided themselves with provisions in their pockets, or handed the same to those of their friends who were chosen. Refreshments were also transmitted in great coats, ostensibly sent by anxious wives to comfort their husbands shut up for the night; and when a contest was expected a system of signals was arranged, so that those outside might know the state of affairs within, and be able to advise what to do. It is believed that many men seriously, if not fatally, injured their health by this folly. The names of the superlatively-obstinate men, who secured the mayoralty for Mr. Browne, deserve to be recorded. They were

Thomas Colby	Christopher Taylor	Thomas Reeve
Richard Spurgeon	Pexall Forster	Edward Wilcock
John Ramey	Robert Gimmingham	Robert Bird
John Wright	John Fisher	James Milleson

The usual formula in the corporation books annually records the election of the inquest "according to ancient custom;" and after giving the names of those chosen proceeds to say that, after being sworn, and "going together upon the said business and staying thereupon a good time, they brought in their verdict," which verdict is then entered. The wording is unaltered whether the inquest were engaged for one hour or ten days; but the latter time was so extraordinary that a note was made of it in the margin of the council book.

\* In 1732 Sir Robert Walpole "kindly proposed" that his second son, then the Hon. Edward Walpole, should be a candidate at the next election; for which "extraordinary favor" the corporation thanked the minister, and made the required return in 1734. He was re-elected in 1741, 1747, 1754, and 1760, by which time he had become a Knight of the Bath, and had filled the office of Chief Secretary for Ireland. In 1767 Sir Edward Walpole, in a letter addressed to John Hurry, Esq. (printed in *P. C.*, p. 221), announced his intention of retiring from Parliament, and the corporation voted an address thanking him for his upright conduct and long services. He left three illegitimate daughters. The eldest married the Hon. and Rev. Frederick Keppel; the second married, firstly, the second Earl of Waldegrave, and afterwards Prince William Henry, Duke of Gloucester, by whom she was the mother of the late Duke of Gloucester; and the third daughter married the fourth Earl of Dysart.



upsetting the Walpole and Townshend interest in the borough, "a change came o'er the spirit of his dream," and to the infinite disgust of their quondam friends, Mr. Browne and some of his immediate supporters went over to the enemy; for which he was rewarded with the lucrative place of Receiver General of Taxes for Norfolk. In 1734, Mr. Browne erected upon that part of the North quay adjoining the river, which now forms the immediate approach to the railway bridge, a brewery plant; and, having purchased a number of public houses in the town, he for many years conducted with great profit the business of a brewer.\* Mr. Browne died in 1769, aged 81. He bore for his arms, as appears



by a shield on his sepulchral slab remaining in the south chancel aisle of St. Nicholas' church, *gu.*, a chev. *arg.* betw. three lions' gambes. *ppr.*; and for a crest, a hand and arm erect grasping a lion's gamb. The same arms are on some family plate now in the possession of W. R. Fisher, Esq., except that the gambes. are *erect*. He left one son who died unmarried; and two daughters, who eventually inherited his great wealth, namely, Mary, who married William Fisher, Esq., and Abigail, who married John Ramey, Esq. Upon a division of property the above-mentioned houses on the North quay became vested in Mr. Fisher.

It might have been supposed that in a town having such a piscatorial origin the name of FISHER would have been a common one; but it was not so. The ancestor of the family which, during the eighteenth century, became so wealthy and influential in Yarmouth, probably came from a distance. John Fisher died in 1728, leaving two sons, John, who married Margaret Seagoe,† and James. John died in 1769, aged 77. His

\* This brewery, about the commencement of the present century, became the property of Messrs. Paget and Turner; and after the retirement of Mr. Dawson Turner from the firm, the business was conducted solely by Mr. Samuel Paget. Ultimately it, for the most part, passed into the hands of Messrs. Steward, Patteson, and Company, who sold the above brewery buildings to the Yarmouth and Norwich Railway Company, by whom they were taken down to form the present approach to their bridge. To the north of this brewhouse were the town muckheaps, which were allowed to remain until 1776 when they were removed, and the ground divided and leased.

† The name of Seagoe is probably Scandinavian. It has been of long continuance. Sampson Seagoe voted at the Norfolk election in 1714 for Astley and De Grey. His

eldest son, John Fisher, obtained the mayoralty in 1767 after a severe struggle; the inquest being shut up for three days and three nights before they could agree on a verdict. He died in 1775. William Fisher, the second son of the second John Fisher, married, as has been stated, one of the two daughters of Mr. Browne, and ultimately succeeded to the Receiver Generalship of the County. He resided in the northwardmost of the above two houses. He was a firm and able supporter of the Walpole and Townshend influence in the borough; and filled the office of mayor in 1766, and again in 1780. Being a man of ready wit, great urbanity of manners, and "given to hospitality," he was extremely popular; and is said to have "led the corporation with a silken string" for many years. In 1792 he became the "father of the corporation," being its oldest member; and dying in 1811, aged 86, that body paid him an unusual mark of respect by attending his funeral. He left two sons, William and James, and three daughters; Mary Anne, who married John Watson, Esq.; Elizabeth, who married Thomas Burton, Esq.; and Sophia, who married Thomas Cotton, Esq. William Fisher, the eldest son, succeeded his father in the occupation of the northwardmost house, and also in the Receiver Generalship. He filled the office of mayor in 1786, 1799, and 1806; and died in 1835, aged 82. He married Ann, daughter of Benjamin Gibbs, Esq., by whom he had an only son, William, who died in 1806, aged 19; and two surviving daughters, Maria, who married Capt. Alexander Nesbitt, R.N., and died in 1855, aged 65;\* and Mary Ann, who died at Hammersmith

wife died in 1724, aged 28. William Seagoe voted at the same election for the same candidates. Mary his wife died in 1733, aged 49; and Clementina, the wife of Richard Seagoe, in 1770, aged 69. Richard Seagoe was a master-mariner, and voted in 1754 for Walpole and Townshend. Benjamin Seagoe compelled the corporation in 1740, by *Mandamus*, to admit him to his freedom.

\* They had two sons, William Fisher Nesbitt, who died in 1834 a minor, and Philip Blundell Nesbitt, who entered a dragoon regiment, and died in 1862, unmarried. Captain Nesbitt, the father, was the second son of Richard Nesbitt, Esq., of Tiverton, who married, in 1773, Anne Blundell, who was lineally descended from Peter Blundell, the munificent founder of the Free Grammar School at Tiverton. Mr. Richard Nesbitt was Major of the 63rd Foot, in which regiment the grandfather of the present lord chancellor also served. They were both wounded at the battle of Bunker's Hill, and

in 1868, aged 82, unmarried. James Fisher, Esq., the second son of the above-named William Fisher, served the office of mayor in 1788\* and 1797, and died in 1837, aged 81. He married Helen, one of the two daughters and co-heirs of Samuel Kettridge otherwise Kittridge.† They



had an only son, the Rev. Charles Fisher, Rector of Oulton, Suffolk, who died in 1836, aged 51, leaving two sons, the Rev. Charles James Fisher, who died at Norwich in 1851, aged 33, and James Fisher of Dalston. James and Helen Fisher had also three daughters, namely, Helen Sophia, who married George Weller Poley, Esq.; Mary Elizabeth, who married Edward Tompson, Esq., and secondly, Charles Fisher Burton, Esq.; and Charlotte Maria, who married the Rev. Edward Missenden Love. The arms borne

came home invalided together. William Blundell Nesbitt, his eldest son, was in the naval service of the East India Company, and died at Bombay in 1807. He married Sarah, daughter of Webb Smith, Esq., of Bath (who married, secondly, Capt. Price of the 57th Foot), and by her had an only son, Richard Blundell Nesbitt, Esq., of Great Yarmouth, who was first cousin to and ultimately heir-at-law of the above-named Philip Blundell Nesbitt. This family bears *arg.*, a chev. betw. three wolves' heads erased *gu.*; and for a crest, a hand erect *ppr.*

\* The "Michaelmas feast" on this occasion was unusually sumptuous, Mr. Fisher sending a yawl to Holland to bring over fruit; and a boat to Cromer for a supply of lobsters, for which delicious edible that part of the coast of Norfolk has been justly celebrated down to the present time. During his mayoralty there was a general thanksgiving for the recovery of the king. The occasion was celebrated by a sermon at church, and a dinner at the *Wrestlers*; and in the evening there was a general illumination. The trees leading from the Market place to the church were illuminated, and transparencies displayed on the church gate and railings and at the Parsonage.

† This was a Lowestoft family. John Kittridge, surgeon, died in 1757, aged 29, and Jane Kittridge in 1769. They both lie buried in the chancel of St. Nicholas' church, and escutcheons of their armorial bearings are sculptured on the flat slabs which cover their graves. Elizabeth, the other daughter and co-heir of Samuel Kittridge, married the Rev. Christopher Taylor, and died in 1797, leaving her sister, Mrs. Fisher, her heir-at-law. The latter survived her husband, and died in 1840, aged 75. Samuel Kittridge died in 1770; and Helen his widow in 1791, aged 66. The arms of Kittridge were *sa.*, a lion ramp. *or.*; and for a crest, issuing from a mural crown *gu.*, a demi lion couped *or.* and *sa.* Motto—*Ne pars sincera trahetur.* Mary, widow of John Kittridge, married (secondly) John Meek, Esq., and died in 1815, aged 83, surviving her last husband, who died in 1807, aged 76.

(as appears by old family plate) were *arg.*, a chev. *vairé arg.* and *az.* betw. three demi lions ramp. *gu.*; and for a crest, an eagle displayed.\*

Opposite to these houses is an open quay still called *Fisher's Quay*. The gardens adjoining the river which, in the time of the Fishers, were opposite to their residences, are now built upon.

*Koto*, No. 38, from *Charlotte Street* to the *Market Place*, called *Ferrier's Row*, the house at the south-east corner, No. 22, Market place, having been for many years the property of a family of that name. The *FERRIERS* of Yarmouth descend from Richard Ferrier or Ferroure, Mayor of Norwich in 1473. Robert, his son, was mayor of that city in 1536, and left a son, Richard, who was Mayor of Norwich in 1596. Robert Ferrier, his son, was the first of the name who settled in Yarmouth, where he acquired considerable property. He filled the office of bailiff in 1643, and died in 1648, aged 52, leaving an elder son, Robert, who married Elizabeth, second daughter of Sir George England, Knt., and died in 1695, aged 66, and of him there are no descendants; Benjamin, his only surviving son, having died in 1753, aged 71, s.p.† Richard, the second son of Robert Ferrier, filled the office of bailiff in 1691, and had the honor of receiving at his house Dr. Moore, Bishop of Norwich, on his primary visitation.‡ He married Judith Wilde, and died in 1695, aged 61, leaving an only son, Richard Ferrier, who enjoyed a considerable estate at Hemsby, where he had a house in which this family partially resided for generations. He took a leading part in local politics, heading what was then known as the Jacobite or High Church party. He was Major of the Yarmouth Fusiliers (the volunteers of that day), and filled the office of mayor in 1706 and 1720. In 1708 he was returned to Parliament for the borough with Colonel the Hon. Roger Townshend,

\* Anthony Fisher of South Pickenham in Norfolk, who died in 1679, bore *gu.*, a chev. betw. three lions passant *or.* He married Ann, daughter of Sir Thomas Willys of Fen Ditton in Cambridgeshire, who bore party per fesse *gu.* and *arg.*, three lions ramp. counterchanged, in a bordure *erm.*

† He voted at the Norfolk election in 1714 for Sir Ralph Hare and Erasmus Earle.

‡ The bishop had previously been waited upon by a deputation of the corporation, who presented his lordship with half a tun of wine, and "desired him to take a bed at Mr. Bailiff's."

second son of the first Viscount Townshend, who had represented the county in several previous Parliaments. The furor excited in the nation by the injudicious prosecution of Dr. Sacheverell\* by the whigs, followed by the dismissal of the Lord Treasurer Godolphin and the re-accession of Harley to power, extended to Yarmouth; and at the general election in 1710 "Capt. Ferrier," as he was then called, was returned at the head of the poll; having Benjamin England, Esq., for his colleague. The charges for the booths were paid by the corporation.† He was returned a third time in 1713, and died in 1728, aged 57, when he was, says Ives, "interred in St. Nicholas' church with great pomp and splendour." He is supposed by his profuseness to have greatly injured the family property. He married Ellen, daughter of Robert Longe, Esq., of Reymerstone,‡ by Ellen his wife, daughter and heir of Thomas Gournay, Esq., of West Basham,§ by whom he had one son who, in a satirical poem of the day, is called Richard II. He filled the office of mayor in 1724, and died in 1739, aged 44. He married Elizabeth, daughter of Joshua Smith, Esq., by whom he had issue two sons, Richard Ferrier, who died unmarried, and Robert Ferrier, who died in 1768, and was buried in Starston church where there is a mural monument to his memory.|| The latter possessed considerable landed estates in Norfolk and Suffolk. Robert England Ferrier, his only son, who was of Caius College, Cambridge, married Mary Webber, and dying

\* There was at this period a family named Sacheverell residing at Norwich.

† The numbers were—Ferrier, 278; England, 269; Townshend, 231; Ellys, 173.

‡ The Longes are of a good family in Norfolk and Suffolk. Robert Longe of Reymerstone, by Elizabeth his wife, daughter of Sir Francis Bacon, Chief Justice of the King's Bench, was father of Francis Longe, who became Recorder of Yarmouth in 1712. He married Susannah, daughter and heir of Tobias Frere of Redenhall, and died in 1724, aged 76, and was buried at Spixworth, and in the hall there the portrait of the recorder in his robes of office still remains. The Longes bear *gu.*, a saltier *eng. or.*, and on a chief *or.* three crosses crosslets of the first; and for a crest, a lion sejant *gu.* holding a saltier engrailed *or.*

§ The Ferrier family had an ancient seal with the coat of Gurney, which is now in the possession of Daniel Gurney, Esq., of North Runcton.

|| Catherine his widow married Philip Walker of Attleborough. Elizabeth his daughter married, in 1780, Robert Purvis of Beccles, surgeon, and had a numerous family, two of whom entered the royal navy.

in 1800 was buried at Hemsby, leaving two sons, Robert, who died in 1809 s. p., and Richard, who resided in the house above mentioned, and died in 1814, aged 55, and was buried at Hemsby, leaving a son, Richard Ferrier, who for many years took an active part



in the politics of the borough, and died in 1868, aged 68, leaving three sons, the eldest of whom, Richard Ferrier, Esq., now resides at the Manor house, Boughton, near Liverpool.\* The arms borne by this family are *arg.*, on a bend *sa.*, three horse shoes of the first. Robert Ferrier was appointed town clerk in 1739, and elected mayor in 1750, when he was per-

mitted to perform the duties of the first office by deputy. In 1753 he was required to resign his aldermanic gown, which he refused to do, and was thereupon dismissed from the town clerkship.† Mary, sister of Robert Ferrier, who died in 1768, married John Burton, water bailiff, by whom she had a son, Robert Ferrier Burton; and a daughter, Lorina, who, in 1778, married Nathaniel Palmer who died in 1799. She died in 1838. John Burton Palmer, their second son (who died in 1839), married Elenor Hotson (who died in 1858), and by her had an only son, William Hurry Palmer, who filled the office of mayor in 1844.

At the north-west corner of Row, No. 38, is a house which was the property of the Lovedays. In 1712 it was the subject of a settlement by Thomas Loveday upon a son of the same name and Priscilla his wife, who survived and married, secondly, John Parson.

Between this Row and Row, No. 40, there is an old house, fronting Charlotte street, No. 21, which bears the letters N. E. L.

Row, No. 39, from *George Street* to *Charlotte Street*, called *Blowers's Row*, from the house and shop in Charlotte street, long occupied by

\* He has in his possession several family portraits. Also a plan of the Manor of Burgh Castle, made by Amos Hacon in 1596; and some very ancient court books, beautifully written. He has also a seal of the last century bearing the arms of Gurney impaling those of Smith of Yarmouth, *gu.*, on a chev. *arg.*, between three handfuls of barley, each containing five ears *or.*, as many bees *prop.*

† By the *Municipal Corporation Act*, 1835, no member of a town council, nor any partner of a member, can hold the office of town clerk.

Mark Blowers, upholsterer, who afterwards went to reside at Reading, where he died in 1871, aged 80. On the north side there are some old malthouses which in the last century were the property of Barry Love, Esq. ; also some fish offices the property of Jeffery Ward, which were converted into malthouses and became the property of William Manning. The house and shop at the south-east corner were, at the commencement of the present century, occupied by Mr. Beckham, a grocer, the father of Lieut.-Col. Beckham.\*

\* He entered the army as an Ensign in the 43rd Foot in 1809, and served with that regiment in Spain; was present at the battles of Salamanca, Vittoria, the Pyrenees, and Toulouse; and having been made a lieutenant came home in 1814. In the same year he went with his regiment to North America, and was at the siege of New Orleans. Returning to England he was sent to join the Duke of Wellington's army, and was engaged in the advance upon and occupation of Paris. On the withdrawal of the army from France in 1818, he was placed on half pay; but soon exchanged into the 79th Foot. The army being reduced, he was again placed on half pay, and was appointed Adjutant of the Norfolk Yeomanry Corps. By giving the difference he obtained a Lieutenancy in the 66th Foot; and in 1833 purchased a company in the 1st West India Regiment, and was subsequently appointed Captain in the 19th Foot then serving in the West Indies, where he remained until the return of his regiment to Cork in 1835. In consequence of serious riots at Newport in 1839 he was ordered to Wales, and was the officer in charge of the Chartist prisoners, Frost, Williams, and Jones. In 1840 he went to Malta where he served several years; and on his return in 1845 was appointed staff officer of pensioners at Preston. In 1846 he was made brevet-major, resigned his appointment in 1850, was placed on half pay in 1851, was gazetted lieutenant colonel in 1854, and in 1856 sold out of the service. He then returned to Yarmouth, where he occupied a house on the North Beach, and passed his time principally in fishing and yachting on the rivers. His daughter married Capt. Cholmondeley, then renting a house at Cantley. Having left Yarmouth, and lost what fortune he possessed, he had in his old age to endure great privations. The name of Beckham is derived from a parish in Kent. Roger Beckham, son of Sir Roger Beckham, Knt., sold his estates there and came into Norfolk, where his three sons settled in various parts of the county. They bore chequy *or.* and *sa.*, a fess *erm.*, which arms were exemplified to them in 1562. Sarah, daughter of Robert Beckham, married William Stone of Bedingham in Norfolk, and to her he devised an estate at Topcroft in the same county. The Stones were an ancient family at Bedingham. Thomas Stone, who died in 1689, was, by Audrey his wife, daughter of William Cook of Bromehall, father of William Stone, who acquired the Lordship of Bedingham by marrying Catherine, daughter and heir of William Stanhaw, who died in 1659; and Thomas, their son and heir, married Lucy, daughter of Robert Suckling of Wooton. The Stanhaws of Bedingham were a family whose wills are recorded as far back as 1414.

**№ 40**, No. 40, from *Charlotte Street* to the *Market Place*. The house at the north-east corner was for many years occupied by Robert Wall, woollen draper, a fluent speaker who took a leading part in the politics of his day. He inherited the house from his father, Thomas Wall,\* and devised it to his only son, the Rev. Thomas Wall, who was instituted to the Vicarage of Edgeware in 1848, on the presentation of Dr. Lee, at the request of the inhabitants. At the south-west corner of this row some very old houses were pulled down in 1859 and rebuilt. In one of them was discovered a fragment of carved oak, which had apparently been the front part of a chest. On it is represented in high relief, on one side, the combat between St. George and the dragon; and on the other, a stag chase, with a man on foot blowing a horn.

**№ 41**, No. 41, from *George Street* to *Charlotte Street*, called *Rose and Crown Row*, from the sign of a public house at the north-east corner. †

The house at the south-east corner, now divided into two occupations, was at the commencement of the last century the property of Thomas Baret of Horstead. It descended to his son, Robert Baret, ‡ and to his

\* Anne, his daughter (born in 1773), married the Rev. John Forster; whereupon Mr. Wall purchased the Vicarage of Gorleston with the intention of presenting him to it; but in 1799 he sold this preferment to Mr. Upcher. The Forsters we shall have occasion to mention farther on.

† The Tudor badge of the Rose and Crown was composed by impaling the Red Rose of the house of Lancaster with the White Rose of the house of York, surmounted by a crown; and was borne by Henry VII. on his marriage with Elizabeth of York. Another heraldic principle was followed when Henry VIII. placed the White Rose of York in the centre of the Red Rose of Lancaster, in the same way as he might have placed an escutcheon of pretence for York on a shield of Lancaster. Tradesmen formerly used signs as well as publicans. Dean Davies, writing on the 27th June, 1889, says "Went to Mr. Chiswell (the original publisher of Burnet's History) at the *Rose and Crown* in St. Paul's Churchyard, where I bought some books, value £14, and gave him a note to be paid at Christmas."

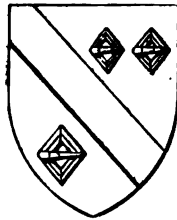
‡ This family descended from the Barets of Westhall in Suffolk. John Baret of Bury St. Edmund's by his will, made in 1463, directed the bellman to go about the town on his year day, "that they that hear it may say 'God have mercy upon his soul,' which greatly may relieve me." Robert Baret was Bailiff of Yarmouth in 1496. Thomas Baret, son of Christopher Baret, of Yarmouth, died in 1721, and was buried in St. Helen's, Norwich, where there is a monument to his memory, bearing



grandson, Robert Baret, both of Horstead; and by the latter it was in 1799 conveyed to Joseph King, who died in 1824.\*

Plot, No. 42, from *George Street* to *Charlotte Street*, called *Jews' Row*, because a Synagogue has long been there.† At the north-west

the arms of Baret.



The last mentioned Robert Baret (in the text) died in 1813, aged 78, and was buried in Horstead church, where there is a monument on which are his arms—*arg.*, a bend *az.* betw. three mascle buckles *gu.*, crest a helmet between two feathers by way of plume. Peter Baret married Elizabeth, daughter of Joshua Smith by Judith his wife, daughter of Richard Ferrier, Esq., and by her he acquired the Manor of Burgh Castle, and also an estate which included the Roman camp, called *GARIANONUM*. This property descended to their only child, Lydia Baret, who died in 1845, unmarried. The manor and estates were then

sold; and the site of the castle was purchased by Sir John P. Boileau, Bart.; and thus, as was said by Mr. Bancroft, minister to this country from the United States of America, in a speech delivered at the Town hall, "the castle, raised by imperial power, upon whose walls Rome planted her triumphant banners, as if to defy the world she had conquered, came an humble supplicant to the bounty of an English gentleman to be preserved from destruction."

\* Third son of Thomas King, who died in 1767, aged 56. The latter in his will says "I give and bequeath my silver watch, shoe and knee buckles, and also my silver stock buckle unto my youngest son, Joseph." This testator was the great-grandfather of Thomas William King, Esq., York Herald. See *ante*, p. 182.

† The present Synagogue was erected in 1847 on the site of a former one; but for some time past there has not been a sufficient number of inhabitants of that persuasion to form a congregation, for which purpose ten males are necessary. Sir Francis Goldsmid, Bart., attended the opening of the new building. He, in the same year, contested the representation of the borough, although the then form of oath prevented Jews from sitting in Parliament. Sir Francis was defeated; but in the same year Baron Rothschild was returned for the City of London; and Alderman now Sir David Salomons contested Greenwich. It was not however until 1858 that the words "on the true faith of a christian" were omitted from the oath.

The Goldsmids were a Jewish family settled at Cassel in Germany, who emigrated to London in the last century. Sir Isaac Lyon Goldsmid was created a baronet in 1841. Sir Francis, his son, was the first of his persuasion admitted to the English bar, and the first to take his place in the courts as one of Her Majesty's Counsel. In 1860 he was returned for Reading.

In 1845 the ceremony of a Jewish wedding took place at the Town hall. On account of the many visitors at a Jewish wedding (all of whom are expected to give something), a large public room is frequently hired. On this occasion about three



BURCH CASTLE. SUFFOLK.



corner of this row there is an old house with a cut-flint front, facing George street, now in two occupations (No. 43 and No. 44), which has the date, 1592, in iron figures upon the front; and at the south-west corner there is a very old house, No. 45, with a modern front, having on the ground floor a room, now used as a shop, in which there is a moulded ceiling somewhat similar in design to the ceiling in the Nelson room at the *Star Hotel*.

*Row*, No. 43, from *Charlotte Street* to the *Market Place*. This is a narrow and very gloomy row, built over at the east end and having lofty houses on each side. Sir Thomas Medowe had property in this row.

On the east side of Charlotte street there was a house the property of the Dasset family. John Dasset,\* early in the reign of Charles I., took a leading part in the endeavour to change the form of government from two bailiffs to a mayor, which seems to have been the object of the court party. He preferred a petition to the king in council, complaining of "the disorderly and factious government of the town," which resulted in the issuing of a *Quo warranto*. He died in 1637, aged 67. Upon a pillar at the south-west corner of the north aisle of the chancel, there is a small mural monument of curious workmanship, exhibiting a reclining female figure, above which is an oval of brass with a latin inscription to the memory of Hannah Dasset, who died in 1631, aged 27. Above is a shield emblazoned with the arms of Dasset.

hundred spectators attended by invitation. The Rabbi, Morris Cohen, delivered a discourse in English from *Genesis* ii. verse 18; after which the nuptials took place.

When the late Mr. David Falcke erected Sutherland house on the South beach for a family residence, a religious ceremony took place according to the custom of the Jews. The family, with their servants and accompanied by a few of their friends (not all of their own persuasion), assembled in the drawing room, where the Rev. Dr. Marks (the Chief Rabbi of the Jewish Synagogue in St. Mary Axe, London) read some of the Psalms of David, and some portions of the Old Testament. He then addressed the family, pointed out the duties of their several stations, exhorting them to perform them, and concluded by imploring a blessing on the house and its inhabitants. According to the *Talmud*, Jewish maidens ought to be married on Wednesdays only.

\* Desiring leave to erect a porch and a cellar door to his house, "in the Middle street," as it was then called, a committee was appointed to view the premises and report thereon to the next assembly; so strict were the corporation at that time in preventing any encroachments.

On the east side of Charlotte street was a house belonging to John Manby, who died in 1754, aged 67. He married Theodosia, daughter of Jonathan Calthorpe, who died in 1777, aged 84. Another John Manby married Mary, daughter of Robert Moore, yeoman, of Burgh Saint Margaret, and they had an only daughter, Virtue, who married David Absolon, linen draper.\* James Manby, from Yorkshire, settled in Yarmouth early in the 18th century, and died at St. Saviour's, Southwark, leaving a son, Edward Manby of Amersham, whose son, James Manby, was in the Secretary of State's office in 1781.

Now, No. 44, from *Charlotte Street* to the *Market Place*, called *Angel Row*, because an ancient Inn with that sign stands at the south-east corner.† It is one of the oldest Inns in the town. "A bulke before the house called the *Angel* was (in 1652) ordered to be pulled down." Dean Davies, writing in 1689, says—"Oct. 16. Dined at "Mr. Bailiff Thomas England's, and after dinner with Mr. Milbourn "spent the evening with Dr. Conant (official of the Archdeacon of "Norwich) at the *Angel*." And on another occasion, "after dinner "took a walk towards the haven's mouth with Mr. Crow. At our "return we visited and sat some time at Lieut. Ellys, until I was sent "for, with an account that Dean Sharpe and his lady were at the *Angel*, "whither I immediately went.‡ The *Angel* Inn is depicted on Corbridge's map, with a sign projecting from the front;§ and a balcony to the first floor windows, which were not then brought out as they now are. It then belonged to Mr. John Sheall, and was occupied by John Moore.

\* He was a common councilman, and was appointed parish clerk in 1814, and died in 1831, aged 75.

† The *Angel* (derived from the Salutation or Annunciation) is one of the oldest signs both in this country and on the continent. The *Hotel de l'Ange* was the best hotel in Paris in the 16th century.

‡ It would be thought indecorous in the present day for a clergyman to be a frequenter of taverns, but it was not so formerly. It was customary for clergymen to resort of an evening to a tavern, and to attend his club. Congregations complained to the Commonwealth Parliament of some of their ministers for frequenting taverns. After the Restoration the clergy again resorted to taverns, sometimes "more than became them," down to the commencement of the present century.

§ It remained until long into the 19th century. Upon it was represented an angel holding a scroll.

In 1767 the "publick inn or tavern known by the sign of the *Angel*," was the property of John Smith; who, in that year, on the marriage of his "only son and heir apparent," John Smith the younger, with Ann, youngest daughter of William Meek of Ludham, yeoman, made a settlement of the property in their favour. At this time the corner next the row was occupied as a Barber's shop; an almost indispensable adjunct in the days of wigs and powder. In the latter part of the last century this Inn was kept by Absolom Darke, who went to Tewksbury for the recovery of his health, and died there in 1792, aged 60, probably of grief for the loss of his wife, Amelia, who expired in the previous year, aged 58. There is a highly eulogistic epitaph to her memory in St. Nicholas' church, from the pen of James Sayers, the caricaturist and political poet, who also wrote the following epigram:—

*"At the Angel at Yarmouth—a singular Inn,  
There's the shadow without, and the substance within;  
This paradox proving, in punning's despite,  
That an Angel, tho' Dark, is an Angel of Light."*

The *Angel* was for many years afterwards kept by Edward Warner, who had been head waiter. Public performers in the 18th century held their entertainments at taverns. "I went," says Ives, in 1736, "to see the famous Mr. Laisser, the conjuror, at the *Angel*." Among other uses to which Inns were applied was that of receiving subscriptions to publications. Thus when Corbridge, in 1728, proposed to publish his "Actual Survey," subscriptions were "to be taken at Yarmouth by Mr. John Moore at the *Angel*, and Mr. Appleyard at the *Wrestlers*." In 1813 a philanthropic gentleman, named Webb, arrived at the *Angel* Inn, with the avowed purpose of distributing a considerable sum of money in charity. He had previously visited Norwich and other places. After disposing of £200 the "confusion and inconvenience" became so great that he was compelled to desist; and left the town after depositing a further sum in the hands of a committee for a more judicious application. King William IV., when Duke of Clarence, accompanied by his duchess (afterwards better known as Queen Adelaide), landed at Yarmouth and slept at the *Angel*. On the following morning they departed for London by road. The approach to the stables, which are at the back of this Inn, is through a passage under the south end of the house. In 1836, as the

Rev. Richard Pillans of Larling was driving his carriage into this passage, his head caught the beam which supports the house, and the sudden jerk broke his neck and caused instant death.\*

For many years previously to the election of 1865, the *Angel* was the head quarters of the tory or conservative party;† and from the "leads" of this house their candidates were accustomed to address the crowds assembled below in the Market place. The most eloquent of all was Winthrop Mackworth Praed, whose ready wit and biting satire made him very popular as a speaker.‡ Whenever he appeared

" the crowd,  
" Witch'd with the moment's inspiration ;  
" Vexed the still air with laughter loud,  
" And clapp'd their noisy approbation."

\* He was the son of William Gooch Pillans of Bracondale. His sister, Amelia, married the Rev. William Humble Ward, who succeeded to the barony of Ward in 1833, and was father of the present Earl Dudley. The Rev. W. H. Ward was the only child of Humble Ward, Esq., barrister-at-law, by Susannah Beecroft his wife.

† It was the remark of an old politician in the opposite interest, that whenever he saw the ladies with their red ribbons begin to leave the windows of the *Angel*, he came to the conclusion that they had received a hint that the election was going against their colour.

‡ He was born in London in 1802, the son of Serjeant Praed, some time Chairman of the Audit Office. At an early age he was sent to Eton, where he associated with Coleridge, Moultrie, and other kindred spirits; and became a contributor to the *Etonian*, a periodical which in a collected form went through four editions. Entered at Trinity College, Cambridge, he carried away an unprecedented number of prizes for Greek and Latin odes and epigrams, and for English poems. After leaving the university he became a writer in *Knights' Quarterly Magazine* and the *New Monthly*; and in 1829 he was called to the bar. At college he had advocated liberal opinions; but he now joined the conservative party, and supported their policy in the *Morning Post*. In 1831 he was returned to Parliament for St. German's. Having been appointed a revising barrister, he visited Yarmouth in his official capacity, and dining at the Michaelmas feast in 1834 he made a telling speech. A change of ministry soon afterwards took place. "Why sit you here all the day idle," said a friend who found him one morning at his chambers, "when your country is calling for you?" He was then informed that a dissolution would immediately take place, and it was desired by his party that he should find a seat in the new Parliament. He turned his attention to Yarmouth, where his relative by marriage, the Hon. and Rev. Edward Pellew, was incumbent; and he and Capt. Beresford (afterwards Lord Decies) came down to canvass the electors. The latter retired in favor of Mr. Thomas Baring, and

When addressing the multitude

"His talk was like a stream which runs,  
 "With rapid change from rocks to roses,  
 "It slipp'd from politics to puns ;  
 "It passed from Mahomet to Moses."

"Let us have one more story," was often heard from the crowd when they feared he was about to close his discourse. His popularity certainly greatly conduced to the return of Mr. Thomas Baring\* and himself ; defeating, for the first time, the Hon. George Anson and Mr. Rumbold.

At the south-west corner, fronting Charlotte street, is a public house called the *City of London Tavern*. Here in 1865 a foul murder was committed. Some foreign seamen belonging to a Dutch galliot, named *Secundus*, then delivering wheat at *Watling's Quay* (on the west side of the haven above bridge), were drinking there at about ten o'clock in the evening when the master required them to go on board their vessel. One of the seamen, a young man named Erenshussen, refused to do so. Heusman, a comrade, endeavoured to persuade him to comply ; upon which the former drew his knife, which had a sharp blade six inches long, and plunged up to the hilt into the heart of Heusman, who instantaneously fell dead. This public house was formerly called *The Green Man and Boot*. Foresters were great frequenters of ale houses ; and hence the sign of the *Green Man* ; † but whence comes the *Boot* ? may it not have been from the French *boute*—a cask or tub ? or *bot*, a bundle of sticks ?

after a severe contest Praed and Baring were returned. Praed was rewarded by the Secretaryship at the Board of Control. He also became Deputy High Steward of Cambridge University and Recorder of Barnstable. Politics now so much engrossed his attention, that he was obliged to lay aside the pen which had dropped so many gems upon the pages of our newspapers and periodicals. Honours crowded upon him ; and he seemed destined to fill some of the highest positions of the state—when his health began to fail him. It was the old story ; the sword was wearing out the scabbard. There was the playful fancy—the restless mind—the heroic heart—the hectic cheek—the bright eye—consumption—and death at the early age of 36.

\* Mr. Thomas Baring, second son of Sir Thomas Baring, Bart., and nephew of the first Lord Ashburton, afterwards sat for many years for Huntingdon.

† The sign of the *Green Man and Still*, Dr. Davy, Master of Caius College, Cambridge, considered to mean a man who sold herbs to brewers !



In the *Angel* row there was a public house, called *The Cross Keys*,\* which in 1752 was devised by Robert Ward, Esq., to his son, Gabriel Ward. There was also, in 1808, a public house called the *Nag's Head*.

The house and shop at the north-east corner has for a long period been occupied by a chemist and druggist. It formerly belonged to Mr. Stacey, and was purchased of him by Mr. Francis Markland of Cheltenham, and was occupied by his son, Mr. Edwin Markland.

Row, No. 45, from *North Quay* to *George Street*, called *St. John's Head Row*, from the sign of a public house at the south-west corner, which some years since represented the severed head of the Baptist on a charger or large dish.† A favorite pilgrimage in former times was to the cathedral at Amiens where, if the story be true, the head of St. John the Baptist (found, according to monkish writers, at Jerusalem in 448, and transferred to Amiens in 1206), was preserved on a salver of gold having a rim of pearls and precious stones. The tenant of this house in late years was a person who bore the Saxon name of Purkis; being that of the hind who carried the body of William Rufus, in his cart, from the New Forest where the king was slain, to Winchester Cathedral where it was buried. A family of this name have, it is said, continued to exist in the New Forest from that time to this, following the occupation of charcoal burners. In old deeds the name of this row is written "*Syngen*," the writer being guided by sound alone; proving the antiquity of this pronunciation of *St. John*. In 1796 leave was given to "box out" the front.

Christopher Harbord had a house in this row. His only child, Hannah, married Timothy Steward, the founder of the Steward family in Yarmouth, of whom we shall have occasion hereafter to speak. Tobias Harbord, his brother,‡ voted at the Norfolk Election in 1714 for

\* This well-known emblem of St. Peter was frequently adopted as a sign by publicans who were tenants or servants of religious houses.

† Hogarth, in his picture of Noon, represents a tavern with this sign; and underneath are the words (frequently exhibited at such places) "Good eating."

‡ There was another brother, Thomas Harbord. Timothy Steward and Hannah his wife had a daughter, Hannah, who married the Rev. Peter Van Sarn, and they had an only child, Peter Van Sarn.

Sir Jacob Astley and Mr. De Grey. By his will made in 1755 he devised to Mrs. Steward his dwelling-house, and he also made a settlement in favor of her son, Timothy Steward, of which Charles Le Grys, Esq., and John Ramey, Esq., were the trustees.

The house adjoining the St. John's Head to the south was, at the commencement of the last century, the property of Benjamin Engle, Esq.\* At the south-east corner are three houses (one now the *Golden Ball*) which in 1687 were the property of Edmund Thaxter, Esq., who married Sarah, daughter of Sir George England. His granddaughter, Mary, who died in 1723, aged 50, in her epitaph still remaining on a flat stone on the north side of the church yard (towards the wall and nearly opposite the north transept) is described as "daughter of that cruel father, Mr. Thomas Osborne, grandchild of that worthy gentleman, Major Thaxter, widow of George Ward, and the loving and tender wife of Robert Hurnard."† There is a tradition that this imputation on the father was recorded on the tomb of the daughter because her lover had by his contrivance been seized by a press gang, hurried on board a man-of-war, and soon afterwards killed in action. If this were so, the lady instead of dying in despair, as she ought to have done by all the rules of romance, consoled herself by marrying successively two husbands. There is a ballad (published in 1775, but of a much older date) entitled "The Yarmouth Tragedy; showing how by the cruelty of their parents two lovers were destroyed." It is too long to quote *in extenso*, but a few extracts may be amusing. It begins by stating that *Nancy*

"——— was a merchant's only daughter,  
 "Heir to fifteen hundred a year,  
 "A young man courted her for his jewel,  
 "Son of a gentleman who lived near."

\* He was the son of Richard Engle who died in 1690, aged 75. Benjamin Engle was for many years a member of the corporation. He filled the office of bailiff in 1693, and was the first Mayor of Yarmouth, under the charter of Queen Anne granted in 1703. (*Swinden*, p. 781; *P. C.*, p. 313.) Elizabeth, his daughter, married John Barker, Esq., of Shropham, who died High Sheriff of Norfolk in 1756. She died in 1770, aged 60, and was buried at Shropham. There is a portrait of the wife of Benjamin Engle in the possession of the Rev. Hanbury Frere.

† George Ward had the above-mentioned property; and his eldest son, George Osborne Ward, dying a minor, it descended to his only other son, Thomas Ward.

From infancy

"Their tender hearts were link'd together,  
 "Which when their parents that did hear,  
 "They to their darling and beautiful daughter,  
 "Acted a part that was base and severe."

They remonstrate; telling their child that she was a match

"For any lord in christendom."

The young lady could not however be persuaded to give up "her  
 dearest *Jemmy*," upon which, said her father

"——— its my resolution,  
 "Altho' I have no daughters but thee;  
 "If that with him you resolve for to marry,  
 "Banish'd for ever from me you shall be."

At last in answer to her entreaties the father consented to their union  
 if the young man would first "go a voyage," in the secret hope that  
 something would occur to prevent the match.

"Then, said the father, a trip to the ocean,  
 "You shall first go in a ship of my own;  
 "And I'll consent that you have my daughter,  
 "Whenever to Yarmouth you shall return."

After a passionate exchange of vows and pledges

"——— with a sorrowful sigh he departed;  
 "The wind the next day blew a pleasant gale;  
 "All things being ready, the fam'd Mary Galley,  
 "For the Isle of Barbadoes straight away did sail."

The young man being thus got rid of

"Many a lord of high birth and breeding  
 "Came to court this beautiful maid;  
 "But all their rich presents and favors she alight'd,  
 "'Constant I'll be to my jewel,' she said."

Meanwhile her lover had also his trials; for "a Barbadoes lady," whose  
 fortune was great, "fixed her eyes upon him" and endeavoured to  
 attract him to her.

"Come, noble sailor, she said, can you fancy  
 "A lady whose riches are very great;  
 "A hundred slaves shall ever attend you,  
 "And music shall lull you each night to sleep."

He resists the temptation, avowing that in England there was "a fair  
 lady" who on his return would become his bride. Driven to distraction

by his refusal, the fiery Barbadoan destroyed herself, which caused "great lamentations," upon which he took ship and sailed for England.

"But when the father found him returning,  
 "A letter he wrote to the boatswain his friend,  
 "Saying, a handsome reward I will give you,  
 "If you the life of young Jemmy will end.

"Void of all grace, for the sake of the money,  
 "The cruel boatswain the same did complete,  
 "As they on the deck were carelessly walking,  
 "He suddenly turned him into the deep.

"In the dead of the night when all were asleep,  
 "His troubl'd ghost to his love did appear;  
 "Crying, 'arise my beautiful Nancy,  
 "Perform now the vows you made to your dear.

"You are my own—pray tarry no longer,  
 "Seven long years for y' sake I did stay,  
 "Hymen doth watch to crown us with pleasure,  
 "The bridegroom is ready—then pray come away.' "

"She cry'd—'who is he that is under my window?  
 "Surely it must be the voice of my dear,'  
 "She lift'd her head from her soft downy pillow,  
 "And straight to the casement she did repair.

"By the light of the moon, then shining brightly,  
 "She spied out her lover, who then thus did say:  
 "'Your parents are sleeping—before they awake,  
 "O, my dear creature, you must come away.'

"'O Jemmy,' she said, 'if my father should hear thee,  
 "We should be ruin'd, pray therefore repair  
 "To the sea side, where I'll instantly meet you,  
 "With my two maidens I'll come to you there.' "

Having thrown on her clothes she did so, and then

"Close in his arms, the spirit enfolded her,  
 "'Jemmy,' she shriek'd, 'you are colder than clay;  
 "Surely you're not the man I admire,  
 "Paler than death, in the break of the day.'

"'Yes, fairest creature, I am your lover,  
 "Dead or alive you know you are mine;  
 "I come for my vow, my dear you must follow  
 "My body to join in its watery tomb."

After telling her how he had refused gold and beauty for her sake,  
he continues—

“ ‘Your cruel parent has been my undoing,  
“ And now I must sleep in a watery grave,  
“ Now for your promise, my dear I am suing,  
“ For dead or alive, your love I must have.’

“ The trembling maiden was sore affrighted,  
“ Amazed she stood on the brink of the sea ;  
“ With eyes lifted up, she cried ‘ heartless parents,  
“ Heaven requite you for this cruelty.’

“ Indeed I did promise you, my dear creature,  
“ Dead or alive I would be your own,  
“ And now to perform my vows I am ready  
“ To follow at once to your watery tomb.

“ The maidens they heard her sad lamentation,  
“ But no apparition indeed could they see ;  
“ Thinking their lady full of distraction,  
“ They strove to persuade her contented to be.

“ But still she kept crying, ‘ my dear, I am coming,  
“ Now on thy bosom I’ll soon fall asleep ;’  
“ When thus she had spoken words so becoming,  
“ She suddenly plung’d herself into the deep.

“ When this to her father, the maidens had told,  
“ He wrung his hands, crying ‘ O what have I done ;  
“ Surely I must to perdition be sold,  
“ My child thus to send to a watery tomb.’

“ Two or three days then being expired,  
“ These two unfortunate lovers were seen  
“ Link’d to each other, on the waves floating  
“ By the side of the ship on the watery main.

“ The cruel boatswain was then struck with horror,  
“ And straight did confess the deed he had done ;  
“ Shewing the letter that came from the father,  
“ Which was the cause of these lovers’ sad doom.

“ On board of the ship he was tried for murder,  
“ And at the yard-arm was hanged for the same ;  
“ The father then broke his heart for his daughter,  
“ Before that fine ship into harbour came.”

After denouncing an inordinate craving for riches, this singular ballad, a copy of which is in the library of the British Museum, thus concludes—

“ True love is better than jewels or treasure,  
 “ It cannot by riches be purchas'd I know,  
 “ But this young couple loved out of all measure,  
 “ And this was the cause of their sad overthrow.”

**Row**, No. 46, from *Charlotte Street* to the *Market Place*, called *Sewell's Row*, from the house at the north-east corner, fronting the Market place, which was for more than half a century occupied as a grocer's shop by a family named SEWELL, members of the Society of Friends, the last of whom was Edward Sewell, who died at Ware in 1870, aged 79. Early in the last century the above-mentioned house belonged to William Taylor, Esq., and afterwards to Bracey Taylor, Esq.; and was in 1767 in the occupation of Joseph Sparshall, grocer.

**Row**, No. 47, from *North Quay Road* to *George Street*, called *Page the Pipemaker's Row*.<sup>\*</sup> Between this and the next row, fronting North Quay road, is a half-timbered house, being one of the very few now remaining in a conspicuous position. Fronting George street, No. 69, is a public house called the *Golden Ball*.† In 1805 it was known as the *White Swan*, and was then the property of Lieut. Edmund Bennett, R.N., and Elizabeth his wife, and Henry Edward Hall of Spackerston in Leicestershire and Ann Lumley his wife.

**Row**, No. 48, from *North Quay Road* to *George Street*, called *Wheat-sheaf Row*, from an old public house at the south-east corner, lately

<sup>\*</sup> There was a manufactory of clay pipes in this row. When the practice of smoking was almost universal and cigars and German pipes unknown, the consumption of these “yards of clay” must have been enormous.

† The *Golden Ball* is a very ancient sign. It was used by the silk mercers. Constantine the Great adopted a golden ball as the emblem of his imperial dignity. When he embraced christianity he placed a cross upon it; and with this addition it continues as one of the insignia of royalty to the present day.

pulled down and rebuilt, and now called the *Mitre*.\* On the south side, in 1670, was a house occupied by Thomas Blackbeard. Most of the buildings on the north side of this row as far as George street, and extending north to Row, No. 46, were in the 17th century the property of Sir Thomas Medowe, who had a "capital messuage" here, which had been the house of his father, who in 1631 had a grant of ground in front of the same from the corporation. The house at the north-west corner of this row, the site of which formed part of the above property, was in 1745 in the possession of Francis Morse, merchant, who died in 1755, aged 61. He settled it upon his son, Francis Morse the younger, on his marriage with Margaret, daughter and heiress of Mrs. Margaret Carter.† There was no issue of this marriage; and Morse in 1766 devised this house‡ with his estates at Lound, Blundeston, Flixton, Belton, and Bradwell in Suffolk, to his half-brother, Thomas Morse, whose son Thomas Morse, Esq., of Lound, died in 1844, aged 100.

A family of the name of MORSE had flourished at Yarmouth in the previous century. George Morse was elected a member of the corporation in 1625, but, refusing to serve, paid a fine of £10. He, in 1642, gave in money £20 "for the defence of king and parliament." In 1648 he presented the corporation with silver plate weighing 250 oz., and in 1665 he gave them £40 "to buy a basin and ewer." In 1737 "Mr. George Morse's gift of a silver salver and tankard" was exchanged

\* The *Wheatsheaf* is an old and common sign, especially in country places.

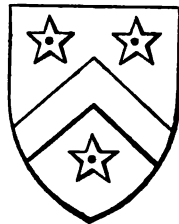
"Behold you have here, the *Wheatsheaf* so fine,

"Its glories in autumn resplendently shine; .

"How rich are the honors of these hanging ears,

"The crown of our labors, our hopes, and our fears."

It was adopted by the bakers. The *Mitre* was one of those ecclesiastical signs which prevailed before the Reformation; and are still used, although all significance is now lost. It was the sign of several famous taverns and booksellers' shops in London in the 17th century.



† He and his wife were buried at Belton, and in the nave of Belton church is a slab to their memory, bearing—party per pale, a chev. between three mullets pierced; and for a crest a demi figure in mail grasping a battle axe, with the motto *Pro Patria*.

‡ There was at this time a large yard to the east of this house, called *The Three Cranes Yard*.

for a silver drinking cup, still in the possession of the town council, and in the custody of the mayor for the time being. It has two handles, and resembles the "loving cups" which were possessed by most corporations, and are still used by the Livery Companies of London. Drinking from the same cup in token of amity was a custom of great antiquity. The Romans inscribed on such cups—" *Ex hoc amici bibunt.*" The health-drinking Saxons transmitted the loving cup to the middle ages. At the tables of abbots it was called "*Poculum charitatis*," and colleges still retain what they call the "grace cup." The cup above-mentioned has a cover, as had all such cups.\* In 1793 the above-mentioned house was purchased by Peter Upcher, Esq., of Sudbury, who married Eliza, one of the two daughters and co-heirs of John Ramey, Esq., it being then in the occupation of Joseph Ramey, Esq.† Upcher, in 1795, devised the house and also the premises opposite and adjoining the river to his "dear and amiable wife," who died in 1799, leaving by this marriage an only child, Abbott Upcher, Esq., who was an unsuccessful candidate for the representation of the borough in 1807.‡ This house was purchased in 1861 by the town council, who pulled down the old house, which projected into the road which was then

\* The custom was (and it is still observed at the corporate feasts in London) for the person who pledges with the loving cup to stand up and bow to his neighbour, who, also standing, removes the cover of the cup with his right hand, and holds it while the other drinks; a practice said to have originated in the precaution to keep the right or dagger hand employed, that the person who drinks may be assured of no treachery. Timbs mentions this in his *Nooks and Corners*. There is an old Norfolk saying, "he caught him napping, as Morse did his mare," implying that an endeavour to take another unawares had been doomed to disappointment. One Morse had a mare most difficult to catch. One day seeing her lying in a ditch, and supposing her to be asleep, he exultingly exclaimed "I've caught thee napping at last," but on preparing to seize her he found the mare was dead. Sometimes the phrase runs, "as Morse caught his mare"—implying a disappointment.

† He had the "patent office" of searcher of the customs, which meant good pay and no work. He was also a surgeon in extensive practice, filled the office of mayor in 1778, and died in 1794, aged 73.

‡ Manby, in his *Reminiscences*, says he was a young man of "refined talent for poetry, his productions being chaste, elegant, and tasteful, especially on subjects of sentiment, and in praise of the fair sex," and his coming of age was commemorated by a ball and supper, the like of which had never before been seen in Yarmouth."



widened, and upon part of the site the present house has been erected. The house on the opposite side of the road, with a garden extending to the river, was, in the early part of the present century, in the occupation of John Close, Esq., the stepson of Dr. Girdlestone. The house at the south-west corner of this row, standing in a garden, was, early in the present century, occupied by Captain Richard Curry, C.B., when flag-captain to the port-admiral.\* It was for some years the residence of Benjamin Dowson, Esq., and is now that of Edward Harbord Lushington Preston, Esq.,† the present mayor.

The following is the succession of mayors since the list published in the *Continuation to Manship's History*, p. 319.

1856.	Charles Cory Aldred	1863.	Robert Steward
1857.	Francis Worship	1864.	Robert Steward
1858.	Robert Steward	1865.	Charles Cory Aldred
1859.	William Worship	1866.	Edward Pitt Yonell
1860.	Samuel Nightingale	1867.	William Worship
1861.	Robert Steward	1868.	Samuel Nightingale
1862.	Robert Steward	1869.	Charles Wolverton

**N**O the east of the last-mentioned house, fronting the south, and extending nearly as far as George street, is Quay house, for many years a residence of the LAON family.‡

Daniel Sheppard, merchant, sometime previous to 1670, rebuilt the messuage then standing on this site, and in that year he sold it to Thomas Osborne, who devised it to his grandson and heir, Thomas

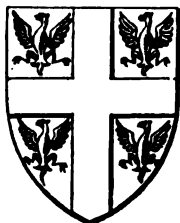
\* He entered the navy in 1780, and after some distinguished services was, in 1806, appointed to the command of the *Roebeck*, 44; and in 1811 to that of the *Solebay*, 32; both being flag-ships stationed at Yarmouth. He resided here till the peace of 1814; and died an admiral in 1856, aged 83. Dixon Whidbey Currey, his youngest son, served with the marine battalion from their first landing in the Crimea, commanded a battery under Sir Colin Campbell at Balaklava, and was acting adjutant to a detachment at Inkerman. Two days after the fall of Sebastopol he was removed to the hospital at Therapia, where he died, aged 24.

† In recognition of his services as Consul for Belgium for 28 years, he received in 1867 from the Belgian Government the decoration of the Order of Leopold.

‡ The site has already been mentioned as probably that of the town house of Sir John Fastolfe, K.G. Among other appointments which this valiant knight held was that of Governor of the Bastile.

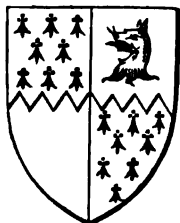
Ward. The latter, in 1738, conveyed it to James Ward, who in the previous year had married Catharine Evans of Bury St. Edmund's.\* He was a man of property, holding landed estates at Belaugh, Coltishall, Hoveton, and Horstead in Norfolk, and at Holton, Halesworth, Thradiston, Mutford, and Lowestoft in Suffolk. He devised the above-mentioned house to his son, James Ward, who filled the office of mayor in 1751. At that time the property extended to George street (then called Middlegate street), and he let a portion of it, with the vaults, to Government for the purpose of a custom house, he himself being collector of customs. Ward died by his own hand in 1765; and by his will devised this property to his son, James Ward of Bury St. Edmund's, of whom it was purchased by John Lacon, Esq.† (See p. 192.)

LACON was the name of a Roman Senator who presided over the nightly guard. He was Procurator of Gaul when Claudius made the conquest of Britain; and in honor of that event the Roman Emperor



\* The Wards of Gorleston and Homersfield in Suffolk bore *az.*, a cross between four eagles displayed *arg.*; and for a crest on a mount *vert.* a hind couchant *arg.* The above-named James Ward sealed with these arms, which had been confirmed to his ancestors by Robert Cook, Clarenceux, in 1593, a copy of which grant is in the possession of Mr. A. W. Morant. Neale Ward, his brother, resided at Bury St. Edmund's.

† The death of the collector was communicated to the commissioners in London by Thomas Barber, the Yarmouth antiquary, then an officer in the custom house, in the following manner:—"We have thought it our duty to acquaint your honours of "this, by express, as *no post goes out this Evening*. Mr. Negus the customer has been "acquainted with the circumstance, whom we expect here in a few hours." The customer's was a patent office, with little to do beyond taking the salary. It was then held by Henry Negus, Esq., of Hoveton St. Peter, who was High Sheriff of Norfolk in 1740, and died in 1794, aged 86. He was descended from Henry Negus, Esq., who married Sarah, daughter of John Fowle, Esq., of Norwich, barrister-at-law, by Sarah his wife, widow of William Burton, Esq., of Great Yarmouth, and eldest daughter of Sir George England, Knt. Christabel, daughter and heir of the above-named Henry Negus, married in 1789 James Burkin Burroughes, Esq., of Burlingham, and by him was the mother of Henry Negus Burroughes, Esq., many years M.P. for East Norfolk. The arms of Burroughes are *arg.*, two chevrons betw. three chaplets *vert.*; and for a crest, a griffin's head erased *arg.*, charged with two chevrons *vert.* Colonel Negus, in the reign of Queen Anne, first made the mixture, which has since gone by his name. Negus bore *erm.* on a chief nebule *az.*, three eschallops *or.*



decreed him a statue, and advanced him to consular honors. It is not improbable that the Romans, when they occupied Shropshire, in which county they have left so many interesting memorials, may have given this name to the small township so-called which lies within two miles of Wem. Certain it is that the Lacons took their name from the above-mentioned place, and were lords there in the reign of Edward I. Sir Francis Lacon was High Sheriff of Shropshire in 1612. He and his son, Sir Rowland Lacon, adhered to Charles I., and their estates were confiscated. They are now represented by William Lacon Childe, Esq., of Kinlet in Shropshire.\* A branch of the Shropshire family migrated to Yorkshire, and settled at Otley in the West Riding in the 17th century. Edmund Lacon (or Laycon as the name was sometimes spelt) died at Otley in 1726. He states in his will that his brother, Thomas Barker, had left to the testator's eldest son, Edmund Lacon, a legacy on his attaining twenty-one, "he following the profession of an attorney;" but says the father, my son will be entitled to a considerable real estate under his mother's marriage settlement, besides the Yorkshire estates which I have devised to him.† Edmund Lacon the son married Martha, daughter of the Rev. William Beevor, and sister of Caroline who married Robert Ward, as already stated (p. 192), and by her he had three sons,‡ of whom John Lacon came to Yarmouth where he married, as has been stated (p. 192), the eldest daughter and co-heir of Robert Ward, Esq., and settling here purchased Quay house as above mentioned.

\* He is a Magistrate and Deputy-Lieutenant for Shropshire, and filled the office of High Sheriff of that County in 1828, and has represented Wenlock in Parliament. He also represents the old Shropshire families of Baldwin, and Brampton of Kinlet. He bears for Childe—*gu.*, a chev. *erm.* betw. three eagles close *arg.*; and for Baldwin—*arg.*, a saltier *sa.*

† Testator bequeathed to this son "all the books in his study; and also his seal with his coat of arms."

‡ Thomas, another son of Edmund Lacon of Otley and Martha Beevor his wife, assumed the name of Barker, and left two co-heiresses, of whom Caroline married Charles Wood, Esq., of Bowling hall, Yorkshire (inherited from his kinsman, Thomas Pigot, Esq.), an eminent naval officer, who died of his wounds received in action,

The eldest (and eventually the only surviving) son of this marriage was Sir Edmund Lacon, Knt. and Bart., who for many years took a prominent part in the mercantile and municipal affairs of the town. Besides the brewery, which devolved upon him at the death of his father, he conducted a large business as a corn merchant and malster, and took considerable interest in forming a company for the prosecution of the whale fishery. In 1785 he, then Mr. Lacon, presided at an influential meeting of corn merchants at Vincent's tavern, at which a petition to the House of Commons was adopted against certain regulations then proposed to be enforced as to the exportation and importation of corn to and from Ireland.\* He also, in conjunction with Mr. James Fisher, established the bank now known as Lacons, Youell, and Co.†

A dissolution of Parliament took place in 1790, and at "a numerous and respectable meeting of independent freemen" Mr. Lacon was called upon to offer himself as a candidate. He did so; but although "the prospect of success upon the canvass was a very flattering one" he withdrew, "being apprehensive," as he said, "of possibly injuring his friend, Mr. Townshend." The fact was a compromise had been effected between the whigs and tories, under which it was arranged that a contest should be avoided, and that Mr. Beaufoy,‡ one of the sitting

9th October, 1782. He was the son of Francis Wood, Esq., of Barnaley in Yorkshire, by Mary Dorothy his wife, daughter of the Rev. Charles Palmer, D.D., Prebendary of York. The issue of the marriage of the above-named Charles Wood and Caroline his wife was Sir Francis Lindley Wood, Bart., the father of Sir Charles Wood, Secretary of State and first Lord of the Admiralty, now Lord Halifax, who married the Lady Mary, daughter of Charles, Earl Grey, K.G. William, a third son of Edmund Lacon and Martha Beevor his wife, was Vicar of Winsford near Minehead, and died in 1781. William, his son, held a commission in the army, and died leaving two daughters, one of whom married the Rev. W. Williamson, Minister of Knockbain, Munlocky, Invernesshire, who died in 1870.

\* In the above petition it is stated that the average exportation of malt and barley into Ireland was 24,500 qrs., and of wheat and wheat flour 19,931 qrs., all the growth and produce of Norfolk and Suffolk, and occasioning the employment of a very great number of ships and seamen. A copy is in the British Museum.

† Mr. Fisher retired from the firm at a very early period. The bank was first opened where the General Steam Navigation Company now have their office.

‡ Mr. Beaufoy was a man of great eloquence and an advanced reformer. He,

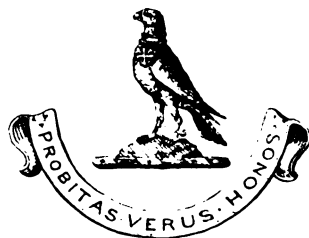
members should be re-elected, on Mr. Townshend being permitted to regain the seat of which at the previous election he had been deprived by Sir John Jervis. Coalitions are never popular; and some feeble attempts were made by disappointed electors to get up a contest. Capt. Webb of Woodbridge offered his services; but meeting with no support retired. At last a "church and state" candidate was found in the person of Mr. John Thomas Sandys, then living near Ipswich, who came forward and went to a poll, but was in a miserable minority, (see *P. C.*, p. 226) mustering only 182 "sons of freedom," as they styled themselves, but causing a considerable amount of money to be spent. "The election," says the *Norfolk Chronicle*, "was carried on with the "greatest spirit and liberality on both sides—with manly perseverance, "but without rancour or tumult." After his defeat Mr. Sandys, says the same authority, used "every effort in his power to quell those "turbulent emotions that, on such occasions, are but too apt to break "out in those who find themselves disappointed, in a matter upon "which they had set their hearts. With the utmost good nature did "he chat with the more fortunate candidates; and as they were chaired "he congratulated them with that unaffected cheerfulness of heart, "which at once spoke the man of sense and the gentleman!"

In the same year (1790) "in consideration of the large trade and "business as a merchant, which he had for many years carried on, and "the very considerable portion which in consequence thereof he bore of "the public burthens of the town," the corporation presented Mr. Lacon with the freedom of the borough, and immediately afterwards he was elected into that body of which, for the remainder of his life, he was a

in 1787, moved a partial repeal of the Corporation and Test Acts, but was opposed by Lord North, and defeated by 176 to 98. He became Secretary to the Board of Control, and died at Clifton in 1795. There is an engraved portrait of him. His widow married Joseph Pycroft, Esq., a banker at Burton-on-Trent. Paley, in his *History of Boroughs*, cites the return of Mr. Beaufoy and Sir John Jervis as a proof of the independence of the borough, notwithstanding the powerful influence of the Townshend and Walpole families. On the death of Mr. Beaufoy, Sir Robert Anslie was invited to become a candidate, but declined; and ultimately a contest ensued, between Colonel Stephens Howe, who was recommended by the Townshend family and George Anson, Esq., who stood on the whig interest, the latter being defeated by a majority of 136. See *P. C.*, p.p. 226, 228.



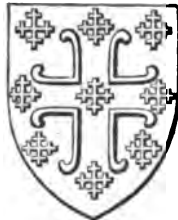
*Sir Edmund Bacon, Knt & Bart*



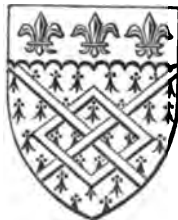
and Suffolk; and in 1818 was created a baronet.\* He married, firstly in 1779, Eliza, youngest daughter and co-heir of the Rev. Thomas Knowles, D.D.,† Prebendary of Ely, by whom he had one son, his successor, Sir Edmund Knowles Lacon, second baronet. This lady dying in 1782, Sir Edmund married, secondly in 1783, Sarah, daughter of John Mortlock, Esq., of Abington, Cambridgeshire, M.P. for Cambridge in 1788,‡ by whom he had two sons and several daughters, of whom hereafter. Sir Edmund Lacon died in the above-mentioned house in 1820, aged 69. There is an oil painting of him at Ormesby house, from which the annexed portrait is taken.

Edmund Knowles Lacon, his eldest son and successor, was born in 1780. He was presented with the freedom of the borough in 1803; in which year also he was appointed Captain Commandant of a troop of

\* On this occasion he obtained a confirmation of arms very similar to those of the Shropshire family. Quarterly per fesse indented *Erminois* and *az.*, in the second quarter a wolf's head erased *or.*; and for a crest, on a wreath of the colours a mount *vert.*, thereon a falcon *ppr.* belled *or.*, charged on the breast with a cross flory and gorged with a collar *gu.* Motto—*Probitas versus honor.*



† This excellent divine died in 1802, aged 78, leaving two daughters; the eldest of whom married the Rev. Benjamin Underwood, Rector of Great Barnet. The numerous works of Dr. Knowles, principally of a controversial character, exhibit great learning and are written in a perspicuous style. The arms of Knowles—*az.*, semée of cross crosslets and a cross recerell, voided, *or.*—were confirmed on the application of Sir Edmund Lacon in 1818.



‡ He died in 1816, aged 61. He was a son of Thomas Mortlock, Esq., an eminent banker at Cambridge. John Cheetham Mortlock, eldest son of the above-named John Mortlock, was Lieut.-Col. Commandant of the Cambridge Volunteers, raised on the threatened invasion by Napoleon. He first held the office of Comptroller of the General Post Office; and was afterwards for thirty years a Commissioner of Excise. He was knighted by the Prince Regent in 1816, and died in 1845, aged 67. Arms.—*Erm.*, a fret *az.* on a chief engrailed *gu.*, three fleurs de lis *or.* William Mortlock, sixth and youngest son of the above-named John Mortlock, was M.P. for Cambridge. He rebuilt the alms houses there, founded by Elizabeth Knight in 1647. He died in 1848, aged 57. Eliza, eldest sister of Sir John Mortlock, married Dr. Kaye, Master of Christ's College, Cambridge, and successively Bishop of Bristol and Lincoln, who died in 1853, aged 70.

yeomanry cavalry which he had raised.\* Subsequently he was for many years Major of the 2nd or East Norfolk Regiment of Militia. He filled the office of mayor in 1807; and in 1812 he was returned to Parliament for the borough at the head of the poll, having for his colleague Lieut.-General Loftus, who represented the Townshend interest, having married the Lady Elizabeth, daughter of the then late Marquis Townshend. They were unsuccessfully opposed by Sir Giffen Wilson, all three candidates being ministerialists.† In 1818 Sir E. K. Lacon and his colleague were, after a severe contest, defeated by the Hon. Thomas William Anson‡ and Charles Edmund Rumbold, Esq. An attempt was made by some of the freemen, in his absence and without his consent, to return him at the general election in 1826, but it was unsuccessful. He was High Sheriff of Norfolk in 1823,§ and died at Bath in 1839. There is a portrait of him at Ormesby house. He married in 1804 Eliza Dixon, eldest of the three daughters and co-heirs of Thomas Beecroft, Esq., of Saxthorpe hall in Norfolk.|| Lady Lacon died at Clifton in 1865, aged 79. By her will she bequeathed £1000 to the poor of Ormesby, £200 to the Yarmouth hospital, and £100 to the Fisherman's hospital. The eldest son of this marriage is Sir Edmund Henry Knowles Lacon, the present and third baronet. He was born on

\* The first Act embodying mounted volunteers was passed in 1794, the provisions of which were continued and enlarged in 1803, when these troops were for the first time called "yeomanry cavalry."

† Many of the advanced whigs (such as the Hurrys) abstained from voting, there being no candidate "to their mind." See *P. C.*, p. 232.

‡ He was the eldest son of Viscount Anson, and grandson of Thomas William Coke of Holkham, who was created Earl of Leicester. On the accession of the whigs to power Lord Anson was created Earl of Lichfield, and in 1836 was chosen High Steward of Yarmouth. See *P. C.*, p. 335. He died in 1854, aged 68.

§ Very few Yarmouth men have filled this office, the election to which, prior to the 9 Ed. II., was by the freeholders at large. The first was Ralph Ramsey, who was bailiff in 1386 and high sheriff in 1408. The Ramseys of Norfolk bore *gw.*, three rams' heads caboshed *ory.*

|| He died in 1787, aged 33. His widow, whose maiden name was Dixon, was an accomplished woman, and was admitted into the distinguished literary circle which then flourished at Norwich. Mrs. Opie mentions "her plump good-humoured face; laughing till she loses her eyes!"



the 14th of August, 1807, and educated at Eton and at Emmanuel college, Cambridge, of which university he was M.A. in 1831. He is a Magistrate for the counties of Norfolk and Suffolk, a Deputy-Lieutenant for Norfolk, Lieut.-Col. of the 2nd or East Norfolk Regiment of Militia (with the honorary rank of colonel), and Commandant of an Administrative Brigade of Volunteers. At the general election in 1852 he was returned to parliament for the borough at the head of the poll, having for his colleague Mr. Rumbold, after a sharp contest in which Mr. William Torrens McCullagh and Admiral Sir Charles Napier, K.O.B., were defeated.\* This parliament was dissolved in 1857, and at the ensuing election Mr. McCullagh† obtained the seat, having for his colleague Mr. Edward W. Watkin,‡ at that time Managing Director of the Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire Railway Company, defeating Sir E. H. K. Lacon and the Hon. Charles Smythe Vereker;§ Mr. Rumbold, warned by the approach of old age, having retired from political life. This election was declared void by a committee of the House of Commons; and Sir Edmund issued an address, but not finding a colleague he retired, and Serjeant Mellor of Otterspool house in Hertfordshire (now Mr. Justice Mellor), and Mr. Adolphus William Young of Hare-Hatch house, Waregrave near Maidenhead in Berkshire, were returned in the liberal interest without opposition. They did not sit long, for in 1859 a dissolution of parliament took place, when a severe contest ensued between Sir E. H. K. Lacon and Sir Henry Josias Stracey, Bart., of Rackheath park, Norfolk, on the part of the conservatives, against Mr. Watkin and Mr. Young on the other side, the former being returned. The numbers were

Lacon, 693; Stracey, 653; Watkin, 568; Young, 537.

\* In the *Continuation to Manship's History*, p. 189, there is an account of the representation of the borough in parliament from the earliest times down to the above-mentioned election.

† He subsequently took the name of Torrens, and sat in Parliament for Finsbury.

‡ He was subsequently knighted, and sat in parliament for Stockport.

§ Eldest son of Viscount Gort, by his second marriage with Elizabeth, daughter of John Palliser, Esq., of Derryluskan. He was Lieut.-Colonel of the Limerick (city) Militia, and bore the motto *Coloony* by royal grant, his father having defeated the French forces under General Humbert at that place when they landed in Ireland in 1798.

A petition was presented, but a committee of the House of Commons declared the sitting members duly elected. This parliament sat for nearly the whole of its legal term, not being dissolved until 1865. Another contest then took place. Sir Henry Stracey retired in favor of Mr. James Goodson, at that time Chairman of the Great Eastern Railway Company, and he and Sir Edmund were opposed by Mr. Alexander Brogden\* and Mr. John Clarke Marshman. The latter retired a few days before the election, his place being supplied by Mr. Philip Vanderbyl, a London merchant, who afterwards sat for Bridport. The declared numbers were

Lacon, 828 ; Goodson, 784 ; Brogden, 634 ; Vanderbyl, 589.

Against this return a petition was presented, and the committee to whom it was referred declared the sitting members duly elected, but reported that there was reason to believe corrupt practices had prevailed on both sides, and a commission of inquiry followed which ended in the disfranchisement of the borough.†

The Parliamentary Reform Act of 1868 having divided the County of Norfolk into three parts, Sir Edmund was returned at the head of the poll for the northern division, having for his colleague the Hon. Frederick Walpole (third son of the late Earl of Orford, who had been High Steward of Yarmouth from 1833 to 1836), defeating Edmond R. Wodehouse, Esq. (son of a former member for Norfolk when the county was undivided), and Robert T. Gurdon, Esq.

Sir Edmund married Eliza Georgina, daughter of James Esdaile Hammet, Esq., of Battersea, third son of Sir Benjamin Hammet, some time M.P. for Taunton, of which borough he at that time possessed a full moiety.‡ Of this marriage there is a numerous family.

\* Of Ulverstone, Lancashire. An iron master in Wales, son of John Brogden of Sale near Manchester. He was returned for the newly-enfranchised borough of Wednesbury in 1868.

† In recognition of his political services and in token of personal esteem, Sir E. H. K. Lacon was presented in 1868 with a piece of plate weighing nearly 900 ounces, and costing £600.

‡ He had also a large estate in Cardiganshire, and was Constable of Taunton Castle. His son, Mr. John Hammet, represented Taunton in 1807, and in several subsequent parliaments. He married a daughter of Sir Ralph Woodford, Bart., of

John Edward Lacon, second son of Sir E. K. Lacon, died unmarried, in 1848; and Henry James Lacon, the third son, a post-captain in the royal Carbery in Somersetshire. Capt. Henry Lacon Hammet, R.N., son of the above-



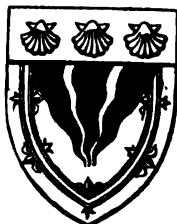
named James Esdaile Hammet, was killed in the trenches before Sebastopol, while serving with the naval brigade in 1856, aged 35. In 1792 Eliza, daughter of Sir Benjamin Hammet, married Richard Walpole, Esq., eldest son of the Hon. Richard Walpole, who had represented Yarmouth in parliament. The arms of Hammet (granted in 1803) are—per fess *arg.* and *gu.*, a pale counterchanged, over all a lion ramp. *ermineois*, on a canton *sa.*, five fleurs de lis *or.* Crest, from the battlements of a castle of three towers *ppr.*, a demi lion double quene issuant *ermineois*, between the paws a pellet. The above-named J. E. Hammet married Emma, daughter of Thomas Foster, Esq., of the Grove, Chalfont St. Giles, Bucks, descended from Sir John Foster, Warden of the Marches and Governor of Bamburgh Castle for Queen Elizabeth, to whose family the Castle and Manor of Bamburgh were granted by James I., they having also obtained a grant of the adjacent monastic lands, all of which possessions were forfeited by Thomas Foster, who was a member for the County of Northumberland in 1710, and who in 1715 was one of the leaders in the ill-considered enterprise of that year in favor of the House of Stuart. He proclaimed the pretender at Warkworth, and produced a commission from the Earl of Mar, authorizing him to act as general in England. After a brief success Foster, with the young Earl of Derwentwater and many other noblemen and gentlemen, surrendered at Preston, and were conveyed to London. Derwentwater was sent to the Tower; Foster to Newgate; and several of their humble followers, including a servant of the earl, to Norwich Castle. Foster, like his fellow prisoner, Lord Nithsdale, was indebted to a woman's devotion for his escape from the scaffold. His sister disguised as a servant rode from Bamburgh to London behind a blacksmith, and having procured an impression of the key of the strong room in the keeper's house, another was made; and she contrived when visiting the prisoner not only to let her brother out but to lock the keeper in, thereby allowing the former time to escape; and within twenty-four hours he was a refugee at Calais. He lived abroad till his death; but was attainted by Act of Parliament.

*The valiant squire could therefore boast,  
That he was loyal to his cost;  
The banish'd race of kings rever'd,  
And lost his lands—but saved his beard.*

The forfeited estates were purchased by Lord Crewe, Bishop of Durham, who had married Foster's aunt, Dorothea, the daughter of his grandfather, Sir William Foster, and by him in 1720 they were (including Bamburgh Castle) devoted to charitable purposes, the annual income being now upwards of £9,000 per annum. The name is derived from *Forrestier*. Latterly they spelt it *Forster*. They bore *arg.*, a chev. *vert.* between three bugle horns *sa.*; and for a crest, an arm in armour *ppr.* holding a broken tilting spear *or.*; with the motto *Si fractus fortis*.

navy, who had served on the west coast of Africa, in China, and in the Black Sea, died at the Goldrood near Ipswich in 1867, leaving one son, Henry Edmund, now a Lieutenant in the 71st Highlanders, and two daughters.

On the death of the first Dowager Lady Lacon in 1829, the above-mentioned house on the quay descended to John Mortlock Lacon, Esq., the eldest son by the second marriage of the first baronet. He entered the army, and before attaining the age of twenty-one was a captain in the 72nd Regiment of Foot (Highlanders). When quartered at Dumfries in 1808 he had the freedom of that place presented to him. He retired from the army soon after his marriage with Jane, one of the two sisters and eventual co-heirs of William Stirling Graham, Esq., of Duntrune, Forfarshire,\* and took up his residence in Yarmouth. In

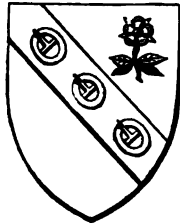


\* The Grahams of Duntrune and the Grahams of Claverhouse were descended from a common ancestor. John Graham of Claverhouse was the second son of Sir Robert Graham of Fintry, who was descended from Sir William Graham, Lord of Kincardine and chief of the name (ancestor of the Dukes of Montrose), who in 1406 married the Lady Mary, daughter of Robert III., King of Scotland. When the line of the Grahams of Claverhouse, Viscounts Dundee, became extinct, the Grahams of Duntrune succeeded as next of kin. Many relics of the

"Great Dundee," his commissions, patent of nobility, marriage settlement, and other family papers are preserved at the House of Duntrune, where there was also a ring presented by James II. to the hero, containing some of the king's hair, with the letters V. D. surmounted by a coronet, and on the inside of the ring were engraved a skull and the posey "Great Dundee, for God and me, J. Rex;" but this ring has by some means been lost. See *Letters of John Graham of Claverhouse, Viscount Dundee*, printed for the Bannatyne Club in 1826; *Notes and Queries*, 1859, p. 70; and Douglas' *Baronage*. "The bloody Clavers," as he was called by his opponents, fell at Killiecrankie in 1689, leaving by his wife, Jean, youngest daughter of William Lord Cochrane, an only son, James, Viscount Dundee, who died young and was succeeded by his uncle, David Graham of Claverhouse, third Viscount Dundee, who had also fought at Killiecrankie, and was outlawed. Upon his death s.p. in 1700 the representation of the Grahams of Claverhouse devolved on William Graham of Duntrune, who assumed the title of Viscount Dundee as next heir male. He was out "in the 15," and was attainted of high treason by Act of Parliament. His eldest son, James Graham of Duntrune, likewise assumed the title of Viscount Dundee, and having joined the Pretender "in the 45" was likewise attainted of high treason. He had however previously conveyed the estate of Duntrune to his uncle, Alexander Graham, by which means it was preserved, and is still enjoyed by the family. He died in 1782, and on the decease of his last surviving son, Alexander

1825 he was presented with the freedom of that borough and elected into the corporation, and in 1827 filled the office of mayor. He was a Deputy-Lieutenant for the County of Norfolk. There is an engraved portrait of him (private plate). He died in 1853, aged 66, and was buried in the family vault at South Walsham,\* Norfolk, leaving the above-mentioned house to his widow for life, who died in 1868, aged 84. The only other son of the first baronet by his second marriage was Henry Lacon, Esq., who was for many years in the civil service of the East India Company. He married, first, a daughter of the Rev. Wm.


Graham, in 1804, the estates devolved on his daughters as co-heirs, of whom the eldest, Amelia, married Patrick Stirling, Esq., of Pittendreich; and Clementina, the youngest, married Capt. Gavin Drummond of Keltie, and their only child, Clementina, married the Earl of Airlie. William Stirling, the only son of the eldest daughter of Alexander Graham, inherited the estate of Duntrune, and assumed the name and arms of Graham by royal authority, and on his death in 1844, aged 50, unmarried, his eldest sister, Clementina Stirling Graham, succeeded, by whom the estate is now held. She is the author of *Mystifications*, first printed privately at Edinburgh in 1859. See *Hors Subseciva*, p. 315. The Grahams of Duntrune bear *or.* on a chief *sa.*, three



escallops *or.*, the base surrounded by a double tressure to mark the royal descent, and issuing from the chief three piles *sa.*, wavy in point as representing the family of Lovel of Balumbie; quartering *arg.*, on a bend *gu.*, three buckles *or.*, and on the sinister side a rose *ppr.* for Stirling. Sir Robert Graham, above-named, married Janet, daughter and heir of Sir Richard Lovel of Balumbie (a branch of the extinct Earls of Egmont), by Elizabeth his wife, daughter of Sir Henry Douglas of Lochleven, so celebrated for using her arm as a bolt in the endeavour to prevent the murder of James I. of Scotland.

\* It adjoins the chancel of the church of St. Lawrence, and was made by the first baronet after he had purchased a considerable estate in the neighbouring parish of Fishley. In it the widow of Mr. J. M. Lacon was buried; and also their fourth son, Mortlock Lacon, who died in 1865, aged 48. Henry, their second son, died of fever on the coast of Africa while serving in the royal navy; Graham, their fifth son, M.D. of the University of Edinburgh, a Surgeon in the 9th Regiment of Native Infantry, died at Allighur, Hindostan, in 1857. He was present with his regiment at the battle of Aliwal, for which he received a medal. Charles, their sixth son, died at Duntrune in 1855, aged 36, and was buried at Dundee. Richard, their seventh son, died young. Frank, their eighth son, entered the royal navy, and died at sea in the West Indies in 1841, aged 16; and George Willes, their ninth and youngest son, died an infant. An account of the above place of sepulchre at South Walsham has been privately printed.

Dampier; and, secondly, Miss Mary Roberts, but left no issue by either. Of the daughters of the first baronet by his second marriage, Henrietta Maria married E. S. Ommanney, Esq., of whom hereafter; Anne Elizabeth married in 1814 Capt. George Wickens Willes, R.N., who had commanded H.M.S. *Bacchus* on the Yarmouth station, and died at Brighton in 1871, aged 81; Louisa Sarah married the Rev. Fisher Watson, and Mary Anne married Fuller Farr, Esq., and are both deceased.

T the north-east corner of Row, No. 48, facing *George Street* and opposite the *Old Broad Row*, surrounded by a garden to the south and west, there stood a house with a squared cut-flint front, having inserted therein a stone tablet, upon which was carved the following inscription:—

1581. — I. B.  
 IF - IT - PLEASE - GO  
 D - THIS - HOVSE - M  
 AY - STAND - AND - TH  
 EY - Y - DWEL - THERIN  
 MAY - BE - ABLE - TO  
 MAINTAYNE - IT.

It was erected in 1581 by John Bartlemews, who filled the office of bailiff in 1582 and again in 1595, in which year he died, and whose widow, Alice, in 1601 presented to the corporation the great iron chest in which, under the name of the HURON,\* they were afterwards accustomed to keep their charters, money, and valuable effects. The above-mentioned house subsequently became the property of Sir Thomas Medowe, and afterwards of Thomas Morse, Esq. The ground to the south which had been a garden, was sold, and a dwelling house with a shop erected thereon which in 1777 was occupied by one Peckover, a grocer; and this house (No. 62) has probably been a grocer's shop ever since. The old house was at that time divided into two occupations and nine dwelling houses were erected on the ground at the back. The front of No. 63 was some years since modernized by the projection

\* Probably the identical church chest, purchased by John Bartlemew in 1548 when the "plate and other rich and costly ornaments and utensils belonging to the church" were sold, and the money applied to the repair of the haven. In 1592 Mr. Bartlemew lent £100 towards the repair of Lowestoft Church, then in a ruinous state.

of a bay window, and upon removing the above-mentioned tablet (which is still preserved), it was found that the inscription had been cut upon a fragment obtained from some ecclesiastical building, probably the church of the White Friars, as the remains of rich carving were found on the back.

Between this row and the *North Foreland* there is a public house, fronting *North Quay Road* (rebuilt in 1868), formerly called the *Turkey Cook*,\* and afterwards the *Pleasure Boat*. The renowned Garibaldi is said to have lodged in this house when the small merchant vessel which he commanded for some years was in this port.

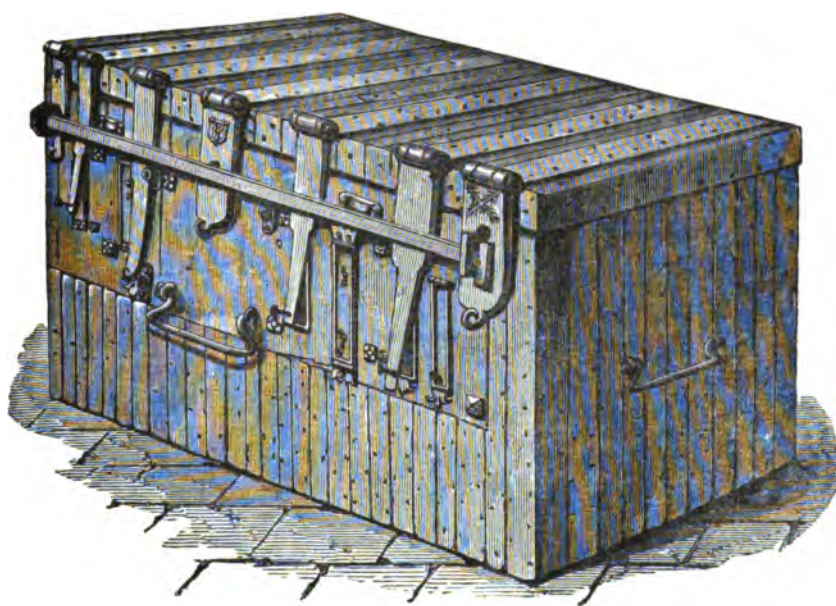
Fronting the quay are two houses, one of which was recently partly pulled down to widen the road and foot pavement. That to the east was in 1766 in the occupation of Thomas Utting, gent. There have been several families of this name in Yarmouth.† John Utting of Lowestoft, cooper, married Alice, sister and co-heir of Admiral Sir John Ashby, knt., of Lowestoft, who greatly distinguished himself at the sea-fight in Bantry Bay in 1689, and died in 1693. Their eldest son and heir, Robert Utting, settled in Yarmouth, and his eldest son and heir, Ashby Utting, a captain in the royal navy, left no issue. Elizabeth, his sister, married James Reeve of Lowestoft, merchant, the progenitor of the present family of that name, who died in 1758, aged 55. She survived her husband for thirty years, dying in 1788, aged 83. Robert Reeve, their son, married Pleasance, daughter of Thomas Clarke of Saxmundham by Pleasance his wife, daughter of Thomas Hunt of Oulton, (who died in 1728,) by Pleasance his wife, daughter of Richard Jenkinson, which said Thomas Hunt was the son of Thomas Hunt of Oulton, who died in 1683.‡

The REEVES have been of long standing in Lowestoft. James Reeve, son of William Reeve of Carlton, "a physician most skilful in his profession," died in 1678, for, as his epitaph informs us, "The power of death no medicine can withstand." He married a daughter

\* This is an unusual sign. There is however a public house so called at Norwich.

† Arthur Utting, an astronomer and mathematician, resided in Yarmouth, and died there in 1849, aged 69. Mr. R. B. Utting, the excellent wood engraver to whose labors this work is much indebted, was born at a house in King Street.

‡ This family of Hunt had in their possession three full-length portraits, by Mirevedt, of Princes of the House of Orange, commencing with William I. They are now the property of Lady Smith of Lowestoft.



*The Marmouth Hatch.*





of Martin Folkes of Rushbrook, Suffolk, grandfather of Sir Martin Folkes, President of the Royal Society, and by her had a son, Richard Reeve, a surgeon of great skill and ability, who died without issue, and with him this branch became extinct. Martin Brown, a native of Lowestoft, was put out as an apprentice by his relation, the above-named Martin Folkes, and became an opulent merchant at Rotterdam. He married a Dutch lady, on whose death half of his large fortune, by the laws of Holland, went to her relations, and the other half to the heirs of Martin Folkes. Robert Reeve, solicitor, son of the above-named Robert and Pleasance Reeve, made extensive collections relating to the history of Lowestoft and the adjoining hundreds. He was a good numismatic, was possessed of a cabinet of coins and medals which ranked among the best in the kingdom, and at his death in 1840 left an extensive and valuable library. His only sister married in 1796 Sir James Edward Smith, founder and first President of the Linnæan Society, who died in 1828. Lady Smith, of whom there is an engraved portrait, still survives. His only brother was James Reeve, who by Lorina his wife, daughter of John Farr, Esq., of Cove, had a numerous family. They bear *az.*, a chev. betw. three pairs of wings conjoined and elevated *or.*

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**ON Broad Row** leads from *George Street* to *Charlotte Street*. It was called in ancient writings *Le Broade Row*, on account of its comparatively great width. When a New Broad Row was formed in the south part of the town (since called *Queen Street*), this row acquired the appellation by which it is now distinguished. It was also called *Kingston-house Row*.<sup>\*</sup> In 1341 Robert Mogge of Martham and Margaret his wife conveyed to Sir William Grey, chaplain, premises on the south side of "a common lane called *Le Kyngestone-house Row*," which had been enfeoffed to them by John de Donyngton, clerk. These premises were bounded by others of Adam de Waynflete, east, and of John Finey, west.† Thomas

<sup>\*</sup> By the sessions roll of 1295 it appears that Letitia, the daughter of Thomas le Meiser, was convicted of a burglary in the house of John Allen, situate in *Kingston-house row*. Allen or Alleyn was one of the bailiffs in 1298.

† One of the witnesses to this deed is Simon Perebrowne, probably a relation to John Perebrowne, the distinguished admiral already mentioned, *ante*, p. 202.

Medowe, Esq., "a Burgess and Alderman of Yarmouth," as he describes himself in his will, father of Sir Thomas Medowe, knt., already mentioned, had a house in "the Brode Row," which he devised to Thomasyne his wife. When filling the office of bailiff in 1638 he entertained Dr. Montague, the newly-elected Bishop of Norwich, on his first visit to Yarmouth. The prelate was received with much ceremony; a large committee having been appointed to "ride to meet his lordship" as he approached the town.

The houses, No. 2 and 3, on the south side were the property of the Bransby family. In 1669 Thomas Bransby, son and heir of Thomas Bransby (a family we shall have occasion to mention), sold his houses in *Kingston Row* to Edmund Smith, mariner. The deed of conveyance has a pendant seal bearing the arms of Bransby. In Manship's time there was, in the possession of the corporation, a box containing "many writings touching the howse in the *Broaderow* late Lansdale's."\*

In 1699 Alderman Green and Bruce his wife gave to the poor a coomb of wheat and a chaldron of coals, charged on their house in the Old Broad Row, to be delivered yearly by the owners. He was bailiff in 1631 with Ezechias Harris; and during his tenure of office the following incident occurred. It appears that in 1622 a "benevolence" was collected in the town "towards the recovery of the Palatinate," which amounted to £120. Instead of paying this money into the exchequer, Mr. Hardware, the bailiff, in whose hands it was, gave it to Mr. Benjamin Cooper, merchant, who delivered it to the chamberlains, "to remain in the town's hands for the benefit of the haven and piers" until demanded; and it was entered in the corporation books "as a gift by the town's friend unknown." Ten years afterwards the transaction came to the knowledge of government, and the lord treasurer applied to the corporation for the money, whereupon Mr. Bailiff Green was requested "to ride up to London to answer or shew cause to the contrary." On his return Green reported that the lord treasurer had referred him to the attorney general, "who notwithstanding all that could be said to the contrary, declared that the town was to pay it, and

\* There was also another box containing "sixteene writings touchinge the howse late Lansdale's near the Redd Well," wherever that may have been.

should pay it," and gave instructions for proceedings to be taken in the Court of Exchequer; whereupon the corporation "not otherwise knowing the true owner of the said £120," wisely paid the money, taking Mr. Hardware's indemnity against any other claim. We have already seen that Green was one of the magistrates who committed the Minister of the Parish to gaol, for an alleged disturbance in church, for which he was himself sent to prison by order of the king in council; but after a week's confinement, was liberated on the intercession of the Dean and Chapter. It might naturally be supposed that the Minister of the Parish would be the proper person to determine when a confirmation should be held, but it was not so at Yarmouth in the seventeenth century. In 1632 the bailiffs (Ezechias Harris and Thomas Green) were requested by the corporation to invite Dr. Corbet, then Bishop of Norwich, to attend on the following St. Bartholomew's day for the purpose of a confirmation, and it was ordered that he should be entertained at the town's charges.

When the civil war broke out, Alderman Green subscribed £10 in plate and money in aid of the parliament. He was one of those who resisted the claim of Sir Henry Woodhouse of Waxham, Vice-Admiral of Norfolk, "for composition fish;" who required yearly "towards the provision of his house, one hundred of island haberdine, one-half hundred of island lyngs, one barrel of white herrings of the brand, and two cades of full red herrings, and one porpoise in the herring fishing and another in the mackerel fishing," which he sets forth in his bill of complaint had been paid to his predecessors, Vice-Admirals of Norfolk, "without grudging or denial," in consideration of their holding Vice-Admiralty Courts at Great Yarmouth, but which payment was then refused and his messenger shaken off "with scornful and proud words." In their reply the bailiffs pleaded their charters, and that the alleged "provision of fish" had been made "upon curtesy and out of good will," and the suit was determined in favor of the town. Green again filled the office of bailiff in 1640; after which we hear no more of him. He appears to have been a sturdy and somewhat unscrupulous asserter of the rights of the town, and a strenuous supporter of civil and religious liberty as then understood.

On the 8th of January, 1735, there was the "biggest shower of rain that could be remembered for thirty or forty years. The Old Broad Row was impassable." In 1762 the house and shop of one Barker was burnt to the ground; and in the following year "some villains broke open the shop of Mr. Richardson, and stole three or four pair of breeches," says the *Norfolk Chronicle*.

The Braceys, a family of whom we shall have occasion to speak elsewhere, held property on the north side of this row. On the south side, No. 7, there was a very old house with a cut-flint front, which was pulled down in 1867.

In this row in the 18th century lived Samuel Kittridge, a bookseller and printer. In 1770 he published "a complete and cautionary advice to young gentlemen intended for mercantile pursuits," entitled "Parables; or Honest Christopher in the Counting House, containing a variety of interesting anecdotes founded on fact."\* Kittridge was the author of the *Theological Quack, or Falsehood Detected*.† He died in 1780. Rose his wife predeceased him in 1764, aged 49: there was a tablet to the memory of her and seven of her children in the Baptist Chapel.

In the Old Broad Row resided John Brown, an upholsterer, who also had the *Cacoethes Scribendi*. Ives mentions in a private letter that he had (in 1770) a pamphlet in the press.

The houses at the north-east corner of this row were in the 17th century in the possession of a family named Wilcock. They are described as then abutting north upon houses which were, and still are, the property of the church.‡ In 1652 John Willcock was ordered to

\* It was intended as a satire upon Christopher Eaton, a corn merchant.

† Ives, in one of his letters written in 1770, in what he calls his "lackadaysical way," and with a minuteness which he says was constitutional, informs his correspondent that "Samuel Kittridge, hatter and hosier, had lately put out a pamphlet "entitled *The Theological Quack*, the entire produce of his teeming brain, in which "lofty terms, sounding words, ill spelling, and worse grammar fall foul of a poor "devil of a fellow that nobody ever heard of till now, one Jonathan Saul, a Methodist "preacher at Lessingham. I will shortly contrive a method to send you this curious "performance, and then you will be able to judge for yourself of its extraordinary "merits."

‡ The corner house was in 1777 purchased by Rachel Barber, widow, who died leaving two daughters, Rachel who married James Hayward, by whom she had

remove a gallery and post which he had set up at the east end of his house in the Broad Row, and if he delayed doing so the chamberlains were to take them away and were to be saved harmless for so doing.

A family named Hunt has property here. Thomas Hunt was bailiff in 1553. When the town resolved to proclaim the Princess Mary, he was sent to wait upon "the queen's grace," and inform her majesty's council of their resolution. Mr. R. H. Hunt, the proprietor and editor of the *Universal Yacht List* and the *Yachting Magazine*, who died in 1870, was born at Yarmouth in 1796, and there first acquired the taste for yachting, which became a passion, and led him to devote his zeal, energies, and resources to the advancement of his much-cherished pastime. There was also a family named Brand who had houses there. John Brand, who had lands at Martham, settled in Yarmouth prior to 1781. In the 18th century Richard Chicheley, stationer, had a shop in the Old Broad Row; as had afterwards Mr. Keymer\*, printer.

To the north of, and adjoining the last house on the north side of the Old Broad Row, there are seven houses and shops, fronting west on Charlotte Street, which belong to the Parish Church. The northward-most of these houses had been the property of "The Gild of our Lady of St. Nicholas," and in it the brotherhood held their meetings. On the general suppression of gilds, and the disposal of their property, this house was appropriated to the church. The early English gilds† were

two daughters, Rachel who died unmarried in 1785, and Helen who married Mr. C. W. Beart of Gorleston. Mary, the second daughter, married Samuel Gilbird. Mrs. Hayward died in 1790, aged 81. There was a family of Hayward of long continuance at Lowestoft. John Hayward, who died in 1719, aged 63, gave 52s. a year in bread for the poor. Alice, daughter of James Wilde of Lowestoft by Helen his wife, daughter of Henry Stone of Bedingham, Norfolk, married Robert Hayward, and left a son, James Hayward, and two daughters, Mary who married William Bass, and Helen who married Samuel Kittridge.

\* Keymer published the best edition ever printed of Burkitt's *Expository Notes with Practical Observations upon the New Testament*, in royal 4to, with fine plates. He also, in 1813, published *The African Princess* and other poems by Mary Elizabeth Capp, dedicated to Dawson Turner, Esq. The book contains "an elegy" addressed to her father, who was at that time a prisoner of war at Arras.

† It has already been seen that the word *gild* or more properly *gild* meant a rateable payment, and was applied to these societies because they had the power of

institutions for mutual help as well as good fellowship; and performed the functions which now devolve on friendly or benefit societies. There being then no diversity of religious sects, each gild had a patron saint, and maintained, where they could afford to do so, a chapel in the Parish Church, and a chaplain or officiating priest.\* They were not trading companies; and they endeavoured to set up something higher than mere gain, and taught the love of one's neighbour not as a mere moral dogma, but as a virtue to be felt and acted upon. Some gilds were however "Craft Gilds," formed for the protection of trade in a manner somewhat similar to the trade unions of the present time. Such at Yarmouth was the Gild of St. Crispin for cordwainers; and their master in 1525 was Alderman William Scarborough.† Each gild had its appointed days of meeting (usually four in a year) for the election of new members and the transaction of business, one being a grand day for choosing a master or warden, and was more especially devoted to festivity and usually held on the feast day of the patron saint.‡ Allowances from the common stock were made to sick members. The members of each gild wore when they met on public occasions a distinctive dress, and this is why the London gilds, which still exist, are called "Livery" Companies. It was the alleged religious character of the gilds which brought about their

enforcing a regular rate from the members; whilst it also meant a brotherhood. The Danish *gilde* signified a feast, and the same word in Dutch implied "a number of persons eating together."

\* One of the clergy was specially appointed to be the Trinity-mass Priest, with a salary which was contributed by the members of the Trinity Gild. The chaplain appointed to each gild was expected to attend the sick and afford spiritual consolation to the members.

† The ordinances of the Gild of the Cordwainers at Exeter are published by Toulmin Smith in his *English Gilds*, p. 331. Every member not paying his share towards the priest and the chapel was subject to a penalty.

‡ Robert Palmer was Steward of the Gild of St. Nicholas, Lynn, which was formed in 1359. The ordinances provide that there should be four meetings every year to which all should come, or be fined half a pound of wax; and if he grumbled he was to pay a pound. Any one ill-behaving at a feast was to pay a fine, and was liable to expulsion. The allowance of all was regulated; and no one was to enter the buttery where the ale was kept. No one was to attend a feast with bare legs or bare feet, nor stay in the gild house after the alderman was gone. These were common regulations. The wax was used for the candles kept burning in the chapel of the gild.

ruin ; for they were all included in the 37 Henry VIII., c. 4, which enabled the king to seize their possessions in order that the revenues might be "used and exercised to more godly and virtuous purposes," which act was rendered more complete by the 1 Edward VI., c. 14. Sir Frederick Eden in his *State of the Poor*, vol. 1, c. iii, is of opinion that "notwithstanding the unjustifiable confiscation of the property of gilds," there is reason to suppose that private associations for similar purposes continued to exist in various parts of England.\* Benevolent and Friendly Societies in some measure occupied subsequently the ground left vacant by the suppression of the gilds. Among these may be reckoned the "Foresters" and the "Odd Fellows," who have long had lodges in Yarmouth.†

In 1766 a *Society of Friends* was established in Yarmouth "for the promotion of good fellowship," and for maintaining "a box" for the support of such members as should become incapacitated by sickness or lameness. Some of the rules are curious. Members were to meet once a month and subscribe 1s. and spend 3d. At Christmas, box masters and a clerk were annually appointed. Sick members were allowed 6s. per week, and £5 to the widow or children of a deceased member, and if there were none then the money to be expended on his funeral, which the members were to attend or forfeit 6d. Any person at a meeting cursing or swearing, offering to game or quarrel, or "check" any member for receiving charity, to forfeit one penny for the first offence, two pence for the second, and so on in proportion on pain of expulsion. Here we have a relic of the old gild regulations which punished insults offered by one member to another. This appears to have been the forerunner of those friendly or benefit societies which afterwards gradually became developed. In 1810 a society met at the *Two-necked Swan*, (*ante*, p. 194) called *The Brotherly Society of Friendship and Good Will*, for mutual relief in sickness, old age, or infirmity.

\* Some villages had their gilds; and it is a remarkable fact that the ancient chapel belonging to the Gild of St. James in Pulham St. Mary the Virgin in Norfolk is still standing by the side of the road leading from that place to Harleston, and is now used as a school. See Blomesfield's *Norfolk*, vol. 5, p. 392; and *The East Anglian*, vol. 4, p. 229.

† The "Ancient Order of Foresters" was first formed in 1745; and has so increased that in 1865 it numbered upwards of 300,000 members, and is one of the first of the great benefit societies in respect of the amount of funds in their possession.



~~Market Row~~ leads from *Old Broad Row* to the *Market Place*, and is nearly opposite to the site of the Market Cross. Although much frequented by foot passengers, it remained open for carts so late as 1784, when, upon the petition of the inhabitants, the corporation ordered one of their old cannons then lying near the playhouse to be put down as a post at the west end; and at a subsequent period this row was paved with flag-stones, and became a favorite place for shops.

At the north-west corner there was formerly an old-fashioned pastry cook's shop kept, in the early part of the present century, by Press Turner, who subsequently had the *Wrestlers*, and ultimately removed to Norwich. The site is now occupied by the linen-drapers' shop erected by Messrs. William Johnson and Sons.

At No. 20 resided for many years Mr. David Abraham Gourlay, who filled the office of mayor in 1849.\* He gave £1000 in 1867 for the erection of schools for the Wesleyan Methodists built on Dene side, and died in 1871, aged 88.

Another house on the north side of this row was early in the last century the property of a family named De Boys.

Near the north-east corner is a house which in the early part of the present century was in the occupation of Mr. Kendall, † haberdasher.

At the south-east corner is a house and shop which in the 18th century was occupied by Messrs. Barker and Fenn, grocers, and subsequently for many years by the surviving partner, Mr. Robert Fenn, a member of the corporation. Mention has already been made of families bearing this name. Samuel Fenn, who was mayor in 1687, had £130 allowed him for entertaining the Duke of Norfolk.‡ In the

\* As such he attended the dinner given by the Lord Mayor of York in 1851 to all the Mayors in England, each of whom took with him a banner and his insignia of office. He was the son of David Gourlay, who died in 1838, aged 80, leaving Susanna his widow, who died in 1851, aged 89; both buried in St. Nicholas' Church.

† His descendants now reside at King's Lynn. Thomas Kendall, who was a member of the corporation in 1626, voted against the scheme for changing the government of the town; and was a supporter of Brinsley. Maurice Kendall of North Walsham (whose family held lands at Banham and New Buckenham in Norfolk) was sub-steward in 1693, and recorder from 1702 to 1712. He bore *er.*, five mascles in cross, and a chief indented *gu.*

‡ Some members of a Norfolk family of Fenn emigrated to Virginia in the "old

same year he carried up an address to James II., assuring him of the attachment of the corporation to his person and government; and on his return the mayor reported that his majesty had been graciously pleased to receive the address and to thank the corporation for the same, advising them when he called a parliament to elect such members as would concur with him in taking off the penal laws and tests. They soon afterwards had a specimen of the king's regard for freedom of thought, for by an order in council he dismissed six aldermen and eleven common councilmen, and by his arbitrary will nominated others to supply their places. This order when read in assembly (Mr. Mayor and all present being "uncovered and standing") was "dutifully and unanimously submitted to and obeyed."\*

The house, No. 3, on the south side was, early in the present century, occupied by Edward Branthwaite Jay, who sold the property to William Kemp, boot and shoe maker; and in 1868, when occupied by Frederick Pigg, hosier, this house was burnt to the ground, and Mrs. Pigg and two children perished in the flames.

At No. 17, on the south side of the row, lived John Short, called by sportsmen the "Emperor of Boot makers." He was strongly commended by Lieut.-Colonel Hawker in his *Instructions to Young Sportsmen*, especially for water boots, which Short sent to all parts of the kingdom. He purchased this house in 1796, and died in 1845.† After the death

colonial time." Their descendants were royalists, and lost much of their property during the war of independence. Three sisters returned from America; two died unmarried at Yarmouth; and the third, Ann, married Robert Ward.

\* The king had taken the precaution of sending some soldiers to the town, under the command of Lieut.-Colonel Billingsley, for whose maintenance the corporation had to provide under promise of re-payment.

† He was a man of quaint humour and ready wit, willing to converse on any subject, and, as he said, to give "the *short* and the long of it." Consequently his shop was much frequented by the *Quidnuncs* of the time. Mr. Frederick Burton once entered his shop and asked Short whether his friend, Mr. Day, had been there. "Which of the Days," said the bootmaker. "I call him the Lord's Day," said the enquirer, "because he is always talking of great people." "Nay," replied Short, "I know whom you mean, but, for the same reason, I call him the *week* Day." A lady once complaining that her shoes did not fit, Short retorted, "Madam, they may not fit your eyes, but I am certain they fit your feet." The lady, who was possessed of a "good understanding," said no more.

of Short, these premises were purchased by Charles Dolman of Basingstoke, linen draper.\*

In the latter part of the last century there resided in this row a respectable tradesman, named Blanchard, the father of Leman Blanchard, † who was born at Yarmouth in 1803.

Row, No. 49, from *Howard Street* to the *Market Place*, is narrow and dismal, there being few dwelling houses in it. This row and row No. 50, divide the Market ward from the Regent ward, which division is carried from Row No. 49 across the Market place to Theatre plain, and thence down Regent road by Apsley terrace to the sea; and from Row No. 50 across the quay to the river. Between this row and Market row, facing Howard street, there was an old public house called the *Maid's Head*, now pulled down and houses and shops built on the site.

\* The Dolmans of Basingstoke trace their descent from Thomas Dolman of Newbury, cloth maker, who was a competitor with the celebrated Jack of Newbury. Sir Thomas Dolman, his son, by building a fine mansion at Shaw in 1581, excited the envy of his neighbours, which had expression in the following couplet:—

*"Lord have mercy upon us, miserable sinners !*

*"Dolman has built a house, and turn'd away all his spinners."*

In 1587 he had a grant of arms—*az.*, seven garbs *or.*; and for a crest, a garb *or.* His grandson, Sir Thomas Dolman, was the possessor of Shaw Place, when it was the head quarters of Charles I. before the last battle of Newbury, where the pass word was "King and law," which the Dolmans took for their motto.

*"King and law,*

*"Shouts Dolman of Shaw."*

† At a very early age Leman Blanchard evinced a strong literary tendency which nothing could suppress. He began his career as reader in the establishment of Messrs. Cox, printers, Great Queen street, London. He married Miss Anne Gates, who had some relationship with Sir Stamford Raffles, and Mr. Vigers, M.P. for Carlisle; and by their exertions he was elected Secretary to the Zoological Society. In 1828 Blanchard published his first work, a small volume, entitled *Lyric Offerings*. In 1831 he resigned his secretaryship for the more congenial employment of acting editor of the *Monthly Magazine*, then conducted by Dr. Croly. He edited in succession several newspapers until 1841, when he became connected with the *Examiner*, and wrote for that paper till his death, which happened in 1846, aged 41. He was buried at Norwood cemetery, and his funeral was attended by a large number of literary friends. Mark Lemon used to say that he was not the only *Lemon* flavouring the original bowl of *Punch*, as Leman Rede and Leman Blanchard were associated with him.

Row, No. 50, from the south-west corner of *George Street* to *Howard Street*.\* At the south-west corner, and occupying the space southward to Row No. 52, there is a fine old house having a cut-flint front towards the quay. All the principal rooms were lined with wainscot, and there were other decorations peculiar to mansions of the 17th century. It is now divided into two occupations; shop windows have been thrown out, and the tiled roof has given place to one of slate. During the last century it was the property of the Love family. They came from Ireland, and had a good estate in the County Cork (which has passed through females to the Vincents of Limerick), and were seated at Castle Saffron near Doneraile. Samuel Love was Mayor of Cork in 1695. The founder of the Yarmouth family was the Rev. Barry Love, who was the son of John Love, Esq., of Castle Saffron, and was born in 1663. He fled from Ireland to London in 1689, in company with the Rev. Rowland Davies, afterwards Dean of Cork (already mentioned p. 135), to escape the persecutions which the protestants then suffered in Ireland under the then lord lieutenant, the Earl of Tyrconnel, who was in arms for James II. When Dean Davies resigned his lectureship at Yarmouth in 1690 in order to return to Ireland, he recommended one of his friends, the Rev. Mr. Ryder, to supply his place; but the bailiffs with whom the appointment was then vested, gathering wisdom from experience, refused to nominate him unless he promised to stay "after Ireland was reduced." To this Mr. Ryder would not assent; whereupon the dean recommended another of his friends, the above-named Barry Love, who not only made the required promise but kept it; much to his own advantage and that of the town. Having given great satisfaction as lecturer, the corporation, who then held the patronage under a lease granted by the Dean and Chapter of Norwich, presented him in 1691 to the Incumbency of the Parish; and he soon afterwards consummated his good fortune by marrying (in 1698) Anne, the rich widow of George Ward, Esq.† He appears to have discharged

\* This street was called *Blind Middle Street* in 1522, when a grant of a piece of land there was made to Richard Platen. In 1636 Thomas Browne had leave to put up two posts at his door in *Blind Middle Street*.

† He presented his bride with a Bible (Oxford Edition, 1697), which is still preserved, and in which many family events remain recorded.

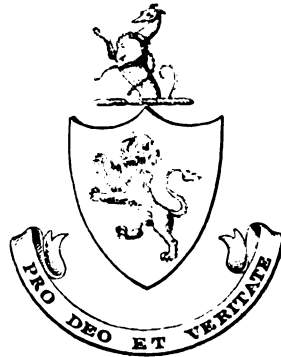
his duties as Minister of the Parish in an exemplary manner, for in 1701 the corporation presented him with £40, "for his great pains taken in expounding the catechism and preaching four preparatory sermons for the sacrament" for two years then last past; and they agreed to allow him £20 a year so long as he continued such exposition and preaching. In 1700 he was presented to the Rectory of Fulmodeston, in Norfolk, which he held for five years. When St. George's chapel was erected in 1715 he preached the opening sermon, which has been printed. At the Norfolk election of 1714 he voted for Sir Ralph Hare and Erasmus Earle, in respect of a freehold at Tunstall. His first wife dying in 1721 he, in the following year, married Mary, relict of the Rev. Wm. Peters of Weeting in Norfolk, but only survived his second marriage a few months, dying in 1722, aged 60. There is a portrait of him, dressed in a black gown and bands, with a full flowing wig, in the possession of his descendants. The minister's eldest son, Barry Love, was the first of the family born in Yarmouth.\* Aspiring to the mayoralty in 1733, a severe contest ensued. The inquest, who were shut up on St. John's Day (29th August), did not deliver their verdict till Sunday, the 2nd of September, when Mr. Love was declared "New Elect." At the ensuing St. John's Day, a *fracas* took place respecting the election of two commoners.† "Mr. Barry Love, the mayor's son," says Ives in his diary, "would have drawn his sword but was hindered; notwithstanding that, the mayor took Mr. Nathaniel Symonds by the nose, upon which he stroke Mr. Love on the head with his cane." These indecorous proceedings were protracted until one o'clock the following morning, when having sat eleven hours the contending parties

\* He had for his godfathers, Capt. Gabriel Ward and Capt. John Carlowe.

† The dispute about "commoners" was this: when a sufficient number of the common council did not attend on St. John's Day, it was necessary to fill up the vacancies from the commonalty or freemen. This was done by the mayor, who nominated whom he pleased, and by this means he might in some measure influence the choice of his successor; to prevent which the aldermen sought the right of nominating each one a commoner, according to the number of vacancies. Counsel advised that the right was in the mayor who, as presiding officer, was presumed to act impartially, whilst each alderman would avowedly nominate a partizan; but, as this was the object in view, such opinion was not satisfactory, and after a century of agitation and contention the demand of the aldermen was conceded.



*The Rev. Barry Love,)*  
*Ob. 1722.*





became exhausted, and agreed to adjourn until two o'clock in the afternoon of that day. When they again met they were "in a much better mind," and at last an inquest was chosen and shut up. The latter could not however agree, and so "laid all that night," the following day, and all the following night, until the morning of the 1st of September, when they chose Mr. Samuel Wakeman, mayor. This did not please Mr. Love, for he refused to dine with the new mayor on the following Michaelmas day; and he and his party "dined by themselves at Mrs. Barnaby's" (probably the *Ship* tavern). It was a contest for supremacy between the two great political parties; Mr. Love representing the government or whig party, and Mr. Wakeman the opposition or jacobite party. During his year of office Mr. Love entertained Dr. Butts, Bishop of Norwich, on his primary visitation, "in the accustomed manner." During his mayoralty, the gold chain, still worn by the Mayors of Yarmouth, was purchased by subscription among the members of the corporation. It had at first a gold medal attached, which was afterwards exchanged for additional links. Mr. Love married Virtue, one of the two daughters and co-heiresses of Christopher Brightin, Esq., with whom he acquired a considerable fortune. She died in 1782, aged 82. Barry Love was a county magistrate, had a country seat at Ormesby, and was Sheriff of Norfolk in 1745. He died in 1748, aged 52, possessed of extensive estates in Ormesby, Tunstall, Repps, Filby, and Hemsby in Norfolk, and in the towns of Cambridge and Great Yarmouth. He devised the principal part of these possessions to his son, Barry Brightin Love, charged with the payment of £5,000 to his daughter, Margaret, "within ten days after his decease." Barry Brightin Love died in 1760, aged 40, unmarried, having survived his only brother, Christopher Love, who died young. He left two sisters. Margaret, the elder, married John Beevor, Esq., of Norwich, M.D.\* and Elizabeth, the younger, married George Robertson, Esq., of London.†

\* Dr. Beevor, by his first marriage with Mary Russell, was father of Edward Beevor, Esq., who took the name of Lombe by Act of Parliament. He had a son, Edward Lombe, who died s.p. By his second marriage Dr. Beevor had an only daughter, Margaret, whom married James Crowe, Esq., of Norwich. Dr. Beevor died in 1816, aged 88.

† Silias, their daughter, died unmarried, at Norwich, in 1868, aged 90.



John Goslin Love, the second son of the minister, was Mayor of Yarmouth in 1763. He married in 1742 Mary, daughter of Dr. Macro, the incumbent. She died in 1777, aged 55, surviving her husband ten years, he dying in 1767, aged 46. Their eldest son, John Love, was born in 1743, and had for his godfathers Dr. Macro and Mr. George Ward, and for his godmother Lady Whichcote. He graduated at Caius college, Cambridge, where he obtained a Perse fellowship, and in 1770, shortly after being ordained priest, was by Sir Thomas Allin presented to the Rectories of Somerleyton and Blundeston in Suffolk, which he held for the long term of 46 years. In 1790 the corporation appointed him to be one of the Ministers of St. George's chapel, which enabled him to reside in Yarmouth; and this preferment he held till his death in 1816, aged 74. He was reputed to be a "worthy gentleman of the good old school." He married Susan Jane, daughter of the Rev. Edward Holden, Rector of Barsham, who died in 1824, aged 75.\* Another daughter of Mr. Holden married Admiral Sir John Lawford. The eldest son of the Rev. John Love, by the above marriage, was John Macro Love, "a young man of the most amiable and endearing qualities," who, while serving as a Lieutenant in the 29th Regiment, died in 1795, of a pestilential fever at the Island of Granada in the West Indies, aged only 19 years.† Their second son, the Rev. Edward Missenden Love, so named from his god-father, Edward Missenden Holden, Esq., also graduated at Caius college, Cambridge, and on the death of his father was instituted to the Rectories of Somerleyton and Blundeston, which he held for nearly fifty years,‡ dying in 1865, in his 83rd year. He married, in 1811, Charlotte Maria,

\* The arms of Holden are *sa.*, a fesse betw. two chev. *erm.*; and for a crest, a moor cock *sa.*, winged *or.*, with this appropriate motto *Teneo et tenior*. John Holden, of Yarmouth, voted at the County Election in 1714 for a freehold at Martham, in favour of Sir Ralph Hare and Erasmus Earle.

† He was born at Browston Hall,—or Browston White House, as it was called, then the residence of Mrs. Margaret Le Grys, who stood godmother; the Rev. Edward Holden and Francis Schutz, Esq., of Gillingham Hall, Suffolk, being his god-fathers. (See *Ante*, p. 113.)

‡ Father and son therefore holding the same church preferments for nearly a century.



*Holden.*



daughter of James Fisher, Esq. (see p. 236), by whom he had a numerous family. John Henry, the eldest son, took holy orders, but died young and unmarried. Edward Missenden Love, the second son, a Captain in the 60th Rifles, died in 1868, aged 50; and Charles Holden, the youngest son, died at Geelong in Australia in 1868. Henry Love, the third son of the Rev. John Love, was born in 1792, and had for his godmother Mrs. Leathes of Herringfleet hall. He was a Lieutenant in the Royal Navy, and died in 1842, aged 49, unmarried. Charlotte Jane, the eldest daughter of the Rev. John Love, born in 1775 (having for her godmother Mrs. Beckford, then residing at Somerleyton hall), married Stackhouse Tompson, Esq. Susanna, the next daughter, born in 1777, married in 1810 the Rev. Edward South Thurlow, Prebendary of Norwich (nephew of Lord Chancellor Thurlow and of the Bishop of Durham), who died in 1847, leaving issue one daughter (who died in 1843, having married in the same year the Rev. Henry Symonds, Precentor of Norwich) and one son, Octavius Thurlow. Mrs. Thurlow died in 1851. Anna Maria and Amelia, twin daughters born in 1785, "a quarter of an hour between them," and "the handsomest children as ever were born," as parental affection describes them, died young.\* The arms born by this family of Love are *vert.*, a lion rampant regardant *arg*; and for a crest, a greyhound erect, coupé, having a collar and chain *or*. Motto, *Pro deo et virtute*.†

Subsequently this house was purchased by Charles Costerton, surgeon, who filled the office of mayor in 1825, and lived here until his death in 1851, aged 61.‡ He married, first, Harriet, daughter of

\* The Rev. Seymour Love, Fellow of All Souls' college, Oxford, died at Yarmouth in 1793, aged 44, and was buried in St. Nicholas' church. In 1743 John Love, Collector of Customs at Cork, seized a Yarmouth vessel called the *Virtue*, Gains, master, laden with a cargo of provisions, supposed to be destined for the King of Spain. An appeal was made to the High Court of Admiralty, but it appearing that the master had a Spanish pass, the judge, Sir Henry Penrice, condemned the vessel as a legal prize.

† There are portraits of John Goslin Love and Mary his wife in the possession of their descendants. He is represented in a blue coat with gold lace.

‡ His most distinguished pupil was Sir James Paget, Bart., F.R.S., consulting surgeon at St. Bartholomew's hospital, and Surgeon Extraordinary to the Queen and

James Wenn, Esq., of Ipswich, who died in 1836, aged 40; and, second, Susannah Shouldham, widow of Capt. Harmer, R.N. By the first marriage he had issue several sons, but had no child by the latter.

At the south-west corner of the above row is a public house called the *Buck*; and in the neighbourhood was a public house called the *Sir Samuel Hood*.\*

Between this row and Old Broad row there is a house, erected early in the 17th century, which has a square cut-flint front. It is now known as No. 65, George street. In 1749 this house was the property of John Eules, upholster; at which time the house to the north was occupied by William Pacey,† and that to the south by John Bradford.‡ They are described as fronting west on *Middlegate* street. Towards the close of the last century this house was purchased by Mr. Samuel Higham Aldred, who was Adjutant of two separate corps of Volunteers formed in 1798. They were increased to six companies in 1803, and united into a regiment of local militia, under the command of Lieut.-Col. Gould, Mr. Aldred retaining his post as adjutant. He married, in 1796, Ann,

Surgeon to the Princess of Wales, who here acquired the rudiments of that profession in which he has become so highly distinguished.

\* In honor of the popular naval commander upon whom, in 1782, the corporation conferred the freedom of the borough. See *P. C.*, p. 267.

† The Pacey family were from Lowestoft, where they were influential dissenters. Samuel Pacey was, in 1695, a trustee of the first meeting house there, with Sir Robert Rich of Rose hall and Thomas Neale of Bramfield. He prosecuted two women for witchcraft; and they were tried, convicted, and executed at Bury St. Edmund's. William Pacey, his son, died at Yarmouth in 1727, aged 64. He served the office of mayor in 1722. His daughter married, in 1724, the Rev. Roger Donne, Rector of Catfield, Norfolk, and, dying in 1727, was buried at Ludham. The latter was the son of Roger Donne of Ludham, and grandson of William Donne of Letheringsett, Norfolk, descended from the famous Dr. Donne. The pedigree is recorded at Herald's college, and the family bore *az.*, a wolf salient *arg.*

‡ The Yarmouth family of this name bore for their arms—*az.*, three stags' heads erased *or.*, with a stag's head erased for a crest. Thomas Bradford was nominated an alderman in the charter granted by Charles II. He was bailiff in 1675, and mayor in 1685; and died in 1703, aged 74, leaving a sum of money wherewith to erect a huge gallery which filled the nave of the Parish church; two pillars on the north side of the nave being removed to afford light to it. This monstrosity was allowed to remain until 1846, when it was removed and the pillars replaced.



*Sir James Paget, Bart. F.R.S.*



daughter of Mr. John Daniel, a common councilman, and died in 1859, aged 84, leaving the above lady a widow who still survives.\*

**Row**, No. 51, from the last row to the *Market Place*, formerly called *Lamb Row* ;† and more recently *Black Swan Row*, from an ancient public house at the south-west corner fronting Howard street, lately rebuilt. At the north-west corner is a public house called *The Vine*.‡ In 1687 Mrs. Elizabeth Witch, widow, gave a tenement in this row for the habitation of poor widows.

To the south of this row, fronting the Market place, No. 36, is a public house, which in 1763 was called *The Old Plow (sic.)*, and was then the property of Spencer Lane. It is now called *The British Lion*. On the south side of this house is a row, not numbered, called *British Lion Alley*, which is of the shape of a dog's hind leg, and runs into Row No. 51, near the west end of the same.

The next house fronting the Market place (No. 37) was in the first quarter of the present century occupied for many years by Joseph Hunton, linen draper, a dapper little man, always dressed in strict quaker costume, he being a member of the Society of Friends. He was active in mind and body ; and might literally be called a "counter jumper ;" for the facility with which he sprang from one part of his shop to another was marvellous. In 1811, when there was a great scarcity of silver, he issued tokens to pass as shillings, "payable at J. Hunton's, Yarmouth, and at Blyth's and Co., Bury." Having, as it

\* The name of Aldred has been of some continuance in Yarmouth. Robert Aldred was a member of the corporation, and dismissed at his own request in 1661. On the 22nd of May, 1763, at Oulton, C. W. Caleb Aldred of Carleton was married to Miss Martha Lane, "an accomplished lady with £15,000," says the *Norfolk Chronicle*. The immediate ancestor of Mr. S. H. Aldred was one of the owners of the Lowestoft China Manufactory, of which we shall have occasion to give an account farther on.

† Probably from a public house with this sign, which is an ancient one derived from the holy symbol of the lamb and flag.

‡ Almost every tavern where wine was sold used formerly to exhibit a bunch of grapes carved in wood.

"Without there hangs a noble sign,  
"Where golden grapes in image shine,"

says *The Compleat Vintner*, written in 1729.



is believed, acquired by his industry some property, he sought a wider field of enterprize by removing to London, where he opened a shop in Bishopsgate street, and entered largely into the trade of a drysalter, living himself with his family at Low Leyton. Deceived it is said by his partner, as other men have been, and losing largely by a speculation in Spanish bonds, he thought to retrieve his fortune by means of bills of exchange accepted and endorsed by imaginary firms; whereby he sustained his credit for some time, but at last the deception was discovered and he was prosecuted, and suffered the extreme penalty of the then law. This happened in 1831, when he was 58 years of age.\*

**Kew**, No. 52, from the *Quay* to *Howard Street*; at the south-west corner of which, fronting the quay, is the *Buck Inn* (No. 8). The next house (No. 9) was, early in the last century, the property of John March, merchant;† and in 1771 it was purchased by Richard Bygrave, saddler, who resided in it for many years. He was a very popular tradesman, and his shop was a favorite resort for all who desired to hear the news of the day. After his death it was converted into a druggist's shop, and occupied for many years by Mr. Cufaude Davie, who, after

\* See *Annual Register*, vol. 70, p.p. 150, 173; and *P. C.*, p. 104.

As a specimen of quaker writing on a matter of business, the following copy of a letter addressed by Hunton to a gentleman in Yarmouth, who had lent money on his Low Leyton property, is inserted.

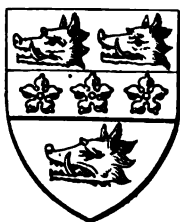
16, Bread Street Hill, 12 Oct., 24.

Esteemed Friend,

I am informed by my sol. that thou wished to have 6 months' notice before the mortgage of my Leyton estate is paid off. I do not wish to deprive thee of the regular notice, and I made thee the first offer of encreasing the amount; but as the deeds of the new mortgage are nearly ready, if not quite complete, I propose to deposit with thee the writings of my two freehold houses in Yarmouth, and any time when thee require it, the money shall be paid thee on giving me a few days' notice, and if more agreeable to thee the £2000 shall be paid thee immediately. On these terms I shall be obliged by thy giving to my sol. the writings of the estate at Leyton when he applies for them.—I am, very respectfully, thy friend, JOSEPH HUNTON.

† John March, his son, who was a printer and bookseller here and at Norwich, settled in George Town near Washington, where he died in 1804, aged 50, "a man of great urbanity, and much regretted." Thomas March, a burgess in the 14th century, held a piece of land and a garden abutting upon the port of Yarmouth towards the west, which he devised to Ada his wife, who by her will made in 1418 desired the same to be sold and the proceeds applied for her soul's health.

the passing of the *Municipal Reform Act* in 1835, was elected churchwarden in open vestry, and filled that office for several years.\* George Davie, born at Richmond in Yorkshire, became a freeman of Newcastle on Tyne, and afterwards settled in Yarmouth, where he had a son (Gershom by name) born to him in 1677. The latter married Mary Alison,† by whom he had an only surviving son, Gershom Davie, who married Ann Worts, and died in 1783. His widow died in 1798, aged 90. Their eldest son, Gershom Davie, died in the same year as his father, aged 49, having had two sons, both of whom were drowned at sea *viâ patris*, and with him this elder branch became extinct. Alison Davie, second son of Gershom Davie and Ann his wife, died in 1816, aged 75, having married Susannah Holland, and had by her a son, William Davie, who died in 1828, aged 62, leaving by Ann Cufaude his wife the above-mentioned Cufaude Davie, who by Margaret Bensly his wife left one son, the Rev. Wm. Cufaude Davie, M.A., Chaplain to the Diocesan Female Training Institution at Norwich. William Davie, second son of the above-named Wm. Davie by Ann his wife, was for many years Agent for the Corporation of the Trinity House and a Sub-



commissioner of Pilotage. He is a freeman of the borough of Newcastle on Tyne, his forefathers having from the time of their settling in Yarmouth invariably claimed their right by birth to that franchise, which at one time was of value as it exempted them from certain dues which other traders to Newcastle had to pay. The arms uniformly borne by this family are—*az.*, on a fesse *arg.*, betw. three boars' heads erased *or.*, three cinquefoils *sa.*; and for a crest a talbot's head erased *arg.*, ducally crowned, collared, and eared *or.* After the death of Mr. Cufaude Davie in 1851,‡ the above-mentioned premises were purchased by the present

\* Previous to the passing of the above-mentioned act, the right of electing two churchwardens annually, unlike the general custom, was vested in the corporation, who by means of the inquest chosen on St. John's day (*ante* p. 71), selected two of their body, one from the aldermen and the other from the common councilmen.

† The name of Alison has been of some continuance in Yarmouth. Edmund and Thomas Alison voted at the Norfolk election in 1714 for Astley and De Grey.

‡ His collections of books, prints, and pictures were sold by auction in that

proprietor, Mr. John Owles, who has an extensive and valuable collection of porcelain and other wares, a portion of which he exhibited at the Town hall in 1865, in conjunction with a selection from the South Kensington Museum.

Between this house and the next to the south, which is a public house called the *Barge*, there was a row which has long since been stopped up. The house last mentioned belonged to Mallett's brewery, and was first licensed in 1773 when it was called the *Yarmouth Barge*, because it was opposite the quay at which the barges which plied between Yarmouth and Norwich embarked and landed their passengers and goods. This quay was also called the Wherry quay, because here wherries and keels took in and landed their cargoes as the practice still is.\*

Before the invention of the stage coach, the most commodious conveyance from Yarmouth to Norwich was by barge; which was not however free from danger, for in 1712 a wherry carrying passengers to Norwich was upset on Breydon and twenty persons were drowned. (See *ante*, p. 182.) In 1809 the barge from Norwich was unable to proceed in consequence of the marshes being so flooded by a rapid thaw that the course of the river could not be followed.

From the above quay in former times it was customary for the bailiffs twice in every year, in order to preserve their rights over the rivers, to embark in their barge, and accompanied by the "Inquests of the Liberties" and many of their brethren, and taking with them musicians and other officers, amid the sound of trumpets, beating of drums, playing of fifes, "and otherwhiles sweetly singing," to pass up the river. Arriving at the mouth of the Waveney the senior bailiff proceeded up to St. Olave's, while the junior continued his course up the Yare to Hardley Cross, and at both places proclamation was made claiming the

year. Among the latter was a portrait, by De Vos, of the Painter's Mother; and the Woodland Ferry, by Lee, R.A., the latter being a £150 prize obtained by Mr. Davie in 1846 from the Art Union. He was a Justice of the Peace for the Borough. There is a monument to his memory in an inclosure on the west side of the north transept in St. Nicholas' churchyard. His age was 53.

\* In 1793 Isaac Ayton, corn merchant, of Norwich, whilst "stepping into his keel which had been laid by the quay-side in order to return home," slipped from the plank and was drowned.

right of free passage, fishing, and fowling, and denouncing unlawful nets, encroachments, and nuisances. The inquests were further to acquire and due presentment make of all assaults, affrays, and blood letting upon "the queen's said streams." The business of the day being ended, the "dinner which," says Manship in his quaint style, "their kind wives" had, in most plentiful sort provided, was placed before them; where, "in their boats, after thanksgiving to God for their liberties," they enjoyed the good things of this life, and each bailiff meeting the other where they had parted, they returned amid "great applause of the people, and much shooting of ordnance." Not content however with their day's work, each bailiff took his company home to supper, so that "if any cheer was wanting at dinner, the same at their houses might be largely supplied." On the following day the bailiffs, both in one boat, with a select party of friends went up to Weybridge, where they had "a hair of the dog that bit them,"\* and then, quoth Manship, "there was an end of the business." This "going to the narrow waters," as it was called, was made a general holiday. Every boat which could be procured was put in requisition, and everyone being bent on enjoyment, it was called by the appropriate name of the "Water Frolic."†

Dean Davies gives the following description of the frolic at which he was present on the 7th of August, 1689. "I broke my fast," says he, "with Mr. Bailiff England, and at about nine o'clock went with him on board a wherry, made into the form of a barge. As we marched three drums were beat, and as many colours flourished before us all along the street; and as we went up the water a drum was beat at the head and a colour floated at the stern of our boat. We were attended by above twenty other boats full of people; and if the seamen had been at home, and dared to have appeared, I was assured we should have had double the number. The first boat which led the way was full of young men in white, with caps made like those of our grenadiers. Next followed our boat with the king's colours at the mast. Then another, alike in all things, wherein was the

\* Applied to a second drinking bout.

† The custom of going the bounds of the river was no doubt observed at a very early date, but it is first mentioned as a "frolic" in 1577.

“other bailiff; after which two wherries followed each other, having  
 “the arms of the town for their flag, in each of which was one of the  
 “foremen, and the Quest for each end of the town, they being persons  
 “sworn in the nature of a grand jury to enquire into all abuses, and all  
 “the privileges of the town, and to make presentments as they found  
 “occasion. After them came our victualling wherries—and then the  
 “mob. Having passed over Breydon, we parted, and went up the  
 “Waveney as far as St. Olave’s bridge, where is the ruin of an old  
 “priory, the prior and monks whereof used formerly to bear a part in  
 “this solemnity.\* Having laid our boat across the great arch of the  
 “bridge, an officer made proclamation, called over the Quest, and  
 “required all persons grieved by any nuisance or injury done them on  
 “the water to come forth, and they should be heard; after which we  
 “came back a little way, then moored our boats and went to dinner,  
 “and were highly treated. When we had dined we returned to Breydon  
 “where we met the other bailiff, who went up the Yare as far as the  
 “Cross towards Norwich, and did the same thing we had done at St.  
 “Olave’s. At our meeting there was a stir in firing guns, huzzaing,  
 “and drinking healths; and so we returned in the evening as we had  
 “set out, accompanying each bailiff to his house, where I left Mr.  
 “Bailiff England in good company, making an end of the day.” On  
 the following morning, continues the dean, “I waited at breakfast on  
 “Mr. Gayford, it being the custom of the town to do so, and went up  
 “in his wherry on the Bure, at least ten miles, to Weybridge,† as I did  
 “the day before with his partner to St. Olave’s, only now we did not  
 “part at all, but went together in an entire fleet all the way. At the

\* This was a Priory of Augustine or Black Canons, founded by Roger Fitz Osbert, the then possessor of Somerleyton in the reign of Henry III. The dismantled buildings remained standing until 1784, but only a few detached fragments can now be seen. What is believed to have been the refectory, a large apartment having a handsome roof of open timber-work, adorned with bosses and pendants, was converted into a barn; and there was a vaulted crypt, supposed to have been an undercroft to the Chapel of St. Mary, of which a drawing is given by Suckling in his *History of Suffolk*. See also Notes to Manship, p. 218.

† As Acle bridge was then called. At a short distance was Weybridge Priory, founded in the reign of Edward I. by Roger Bigod, for regular Canons of the Order of St. Augustine. See Blomefield, vol. xi., p. 92.

"bridge we did the same thing as the day before, and so dined. At night I did the same as with the other bailiff, and so returned home." This ceremony continued to be observed for a long series of years, but the festivities were somewhat shortened. When the two bailiffs were succeeded by a mayor, there was but one barge instead of two, and the ceremonies at St. Olave's bridge and Weybridge were dispensed with.

James Sayers, the caricaturist, wrote the following admirable account of a Water Frolic at which he was present in August, 1777.

Our frolic last week, both on board and on shore,  
Was the best frolic known since the days of old Noah,—  
And shall be recorded,—and therefore I choose  
To describe it in verse,—for it beggars all prose.

The morn treading lightly on Somnus' heel,  
Was first ushered in by an excellent peal—  
Whether thunder, or bells, or aught else made the pother,  
'Twas a monstrous good peal, Sir, of something or other.

Then the barges—but stop only one barge was there,  
The rest were unluckily out of repair ;  
So the mayor, resolv'd that his friends should be merry,  
Set on foot a subscription to fit up a wherry,  
Where the whole corporation with tables before 'em,  
Were stow'd in the hold with the nicest decorum :  
And the Headborough-inquest, to shew that they merit  
So exalted a station, like men of true spirit  
From their own private purses provided another,  
Where each honest juryman sat with his brother ;  
While many an invalid stranger invited,  
Jostled in with the rest, and seem'd highly delighted.

As soon as provisions and gentry were all in,  
Each wherry was roofed with a handsome tarpaulin ;  
And the mayor waved a handkerchief out of his ark,  
As a sign for the rest of his friends to embark.

When lo ! from the quay and the opposite shore,  
A huge fleet of galleys was seen to unmoor ;  
And skiffs, yawls, and bumboats, in infinite numbers,  
All press'd round the mayor like canoes round Columbus.

Then the wherries set sail, and the captain o' Smack,  
His popguns discharged with a terrible crack ;—

Such a crack! that the shore with the echoes resounded,  
 Each Naiad was frightened, Old Yare was confounded,  
 While on each side his stream many thousand spectators  
 Hail'd with loud acclamations these great navigators;—  
 E'en Neptune himself had been proud to have known 'em,  
 So sweetly they sail'd by old Garianonum.  
 When arrived at the bounds they made loud proclamation,  
 And asserted the rights of this great corporation.

The business thus settled, the mayor gave the word  
 To open the hampers and cover the board;—  
 Now the feast that young Ammon gave Thais the sinner,  
 Compared with this feast was a family dinner.

Oh! had I but, Anstey! one spark of the fire  
 That so nobly distinguish'd the lays of thy squire,  
 With rapture I'd sing how each epicurean  
 Stuck his blade in the haunch with the skill of Acteon;  
 How each poor invalid who, for many a day,  
 Had sent the best viands untasted away,  
 Licked his lips at the beef, and with stomach canine,  
 E'er the grace was half over, fell foul of sirloin;—  
 How they ripp'd up the pasties, and scrambled for crust,  
 Dismember'd the turkeys, the capons untrussed,  
 And unbutton'd their waistcoats for fear they should burst;—  
 Then how briskly they clear'd away dishes and spoons,—  
 How the Dons clapp'd a match to their pipes in platoons,—  
 How refin'd was their wit, and how brilliant each joke,  
 Tho' the atmosphere round 'em was all in a smoke;—  
 How with infinite judgement, distinctly and loud,  
 "Rule Britannia" was sung by a voice from the cloud,—  
 How each juryman, stranger, and principal burgess  
 Drank, choruss'd, and shouted like true Boanerges;—  
 But alas! 'tis a subject too high for my muse,  
 And she never shall pilfer from naval reviews.—

Then the mayor stood up and commanded the fleet  
 To drop from their moorings and sound a retreat;—  
 When each flute, fife, and fiddle was instantly played on,  
 And so they sail'd sweetly again over Breydon.

Meanwhile some good gentlemen, proud of the charge,  
 With fruit, wine, and sweetmeats had victualled a barge,  
 And each lady of rank had the compliment paid her,  
 Of a ticket to meet the returning Armada:—  
 Thus invited, thro' crowds to the galley they came,  
 And were placed on each side; while a beautiful dame,



**JAMES SAYERS.**

*AGED 65.*

From a Sketch taken by himself August 1814





With the curtains undrawn that the people might see her  
At the head of the barge, sat like Queen Oberon.

Then they sail'd from the shore, and without hesitation  
The ladies began to eat up the collation ;  
But scarce had each youth hob-nobb'd with his fair,  
When the pilot announced the approach of the mayor ;—  
Then the ladies rose up, and, before he came to 'em,  
Their calashes threw back, that his worship might view 'em ;—  
The mayor paid the compliments due to their graces,  
And the boats press'd around 'em, and haul'd up their braces,  
And fir'd every popgun they had in their faces,—  
And I ne'er shall forget with what sweet approbation  
The ladies received this polite salutation :  
The beaux wav'd their hats, and each belle wav'd her hand,  
And so fine a concerto was play'd by the band,  
That e'en Handel himself, the renowned Bunoncini,  
The great Doctor Catgut, or Doctor Manini,  
Or the Eastern Battalion's fam'd fifers and drummers  
Compar'd with this band, were a set of mere thrummers.

Thus attended like gods of the floods they appeared,  
Each breeze was a zephyr, each cloud disappeared,  
The glass circled briskly, the songs were encored,—  
So bright was the wine, and so festive the board ;—  
Till the sun, having finished his gallop diurnal,  
Set down by his Thetis to shew her his journal ;  
When each boat, barge, and wherry, without an embargo,  
Ran up to the Quay, and delivered her cargo.

Dr. Glover, who was a guest on board the mayor's barge in 1779,  
gives the following description :—

*" At nine in the morning his worship the mayor,  
" With his corporate train to the bridge did repair,  
" The serjeants at mace clear'd the way to the barge,  
" And the fifes sweetly played, whilst the drums beat a charge.  
" At The Cross\* we refresh'd, and at fam'd Garianonum,  
" Uncork'd a fine bottle of old Magnum Bonum ;  
" Norwich river we entered, Burgh Castle we pass'd,  
" And at Roodham their anchors this brilliant fleet cast ;  
" Here the gentry debark'd, and their compliments paid,  
" While the servants adroitly, the table cloths laid—*

\* Meaning the first stake with a wooden cross placed thereon to mark the deep  
water channel, where a bottle of wine was always opened.

*"When such feasting began as few folks can remember  
 "Who ne'er din'd at Guildhall on the 9th of November.  
 "Shades of evening descending the galleys unmoor  
 "And pass'd The Cross stake we have mention'd afore,  
 "Now arrived at the Quay from this watery roam,  
 "It was midnight 'ere most of the parties got home."*

The frolic was not always however without peril and discomfort. On the 3rd of August, 1737, says Ives, "Father and I and several other gentlemen went up the water with Mr. Mayor, it being a very fine morning, but at three o'clock the wind came to the E.N.E., and blew very hard. Wherries and boats were obliged to lay in Burgh dyke all night. We got down by seven o'clock but with no dry threads about us." Next day it rained and blew very hard, "wherries could not get over Breydon," and "the gentlemen had to come home on foot or in coaches." In 1793 the gaff on board the mayor's barge, falling suddenly, struck Mr. Robert Norfor, one of the guests, on the head and instantly killed him. He was a solicitor, aged 32. This sad event caused the frolic to be discontinued for many years.

Dr. Sayers viewed the scene with the eye of a poet. It is an occasion he says "when all the many river pleasure boats assemble, and the commercial craft are put in requisition to stow spectators, waft music, and vend refreshments. There are sailing matches and rowing matches, and spontaneous evolutions of vessels of all sorts—a dance of ships—their streamers flying and their canvas spread. It is a fair afloat where the voice of revelry resounds from every gliding tent; and when the tide begins to fall and to condense the various fleets on their return, the bridge, quays, balconies, and meadows of Yarmouth are thronged with spectators. The boys who have climbed the masts and rigging of the moored ships add to the crowd on shore a rocking crowd above—and the gathering boats mingle their separate concerts in one chorus of jollity—guns fire, and loyalty and liberty shout with rival glee—the setting sun inflames the waters—and the scene becomes surpassingly exhilarating and magnificent."

The *Municipal Corporation Act* of 1834 prevented the application of the borough fund to the maintenance of this pageant, the official expenses of which had increased from a modest 30s., allowed to the

bailiffs in the 16th century, to about £100 a year. The mayor is no longer present in his official capacity, but in other respects the Water Frolic, or River Regatta as it is now termed, is continued to the present time.\*

At the Regatta in 1863 a singular and fatal accident occurred. A wherry had been fitted up for passengers by lifting the hatches and forming a large cabin in the hold. As the boats in the race sailed past, the people who stood upon the hatches crowded to see them, and by their weight caused the supports to give way, whereby those who were so standing were precipitated into the river, whilst the heads of those who were looking out from the cabin below were crushed, thereby causing the instantaneous death of two men.

Adjoining and to the south of the *Barge* is an Elizabethan house long occupied as an Inn, called the *Duke's Head*.† It has a cut-flint front with stone dressings. The rooms are wainscotted in panels, divided by pilasters, with ornamental chimney pieces from the ceiling to the floor. The wood work has been painted, but the rooms are otherwise in good preservation. In one of the bedrooms there is a chimney piece elaborately carved. On the front of this house there is a stone tablet inserted, bearing the date 1600. The two houses already described, to the north, had cut-flint fronts like this house; but in the first quarter of the present century they were modernized. The *Duke's Head* was in the last century the property of the ELDRIDGE family.‡

\* It is asserted that the lively description which Lady Wortley Montagu gave of a *regatta* which she witnessed at Venice, first stimulated the English to have something of the kind on the Thames, in 1775; after which such fêtes became very general wherever there was sufficient space of water for a display.

† The head has been changed several times to meet the popular feeling of the day. At one time it represented the Duke of Cumberland, for there were great rejoicings in Yarmouth when the "unnatural rebellion" of 1745 was suppressed; the inhabitants being for the most part strong supporters of the House of Hanover. It subsequently became the Duke of Clarence, and lastly the Duke of Wellington, the sign in front being as often repainted.

‡ Richard Burrough Eldridge, a Baron of the Court of Exchequer, and Senior Member of the House of Assembly for the Island of Antigua, was a native of Yarmouth. He died in 1852. His sister married Charles Taylor, a baker in King Street, who afterwards kept the Bath Rooms at Yarmouth, and lastly the Bowling Green Hotel at Norwich. In 1770 the Rev. Thomas Howe preached a

In the latter part of the last century the Ship-masters' Society held their meetings at the *Duke's Head*. From this Inn, more than a century since, the London stage when first established set out on its journey.

When we hear people grumbling and growling at being detained four or five hours on the road between London and Yarmouth, it is as well to reflect upon the time formerly occupied by this journey. Dean Davies thus describes his journey down:—"July 1, 1689. About an hour before four in the morning I took coach for Yarmouth, and came by twelve o'clock to Bishop's Stortford, where we dined; thence we passed through Newmarket and came to Bury St. Edmund's, and lodged that night at the Inn. The next morning I came forward with Mr. Bendish to the place where we dined, and at about half-past seven o'clock came to Yarmouth, where I no sooner was than Mr. Symonds and another gentleman came to me, and after a kind salutation, told me that they were sent by one of the bailiffs to conduct me to his house, whither we went, and there I was kindly received by Mr. England the bailiff, and detained to supper; after which I was accompanied by Mr. Ellys to his house, where I lodged that night." Ives, the antiquary, having invited the Rev. John Bowle\* of Idemestone, in Wiltshire, to visit him in 1773, advises him how to travel in the most convenient and expeditious manner in the following words:—"When you come to town enquire for the Norwich coach, ascend it at twelve o'clock at night, the next evening at seven you will arrive at Norwich, there I will meet and conduct you to Yarmouth." And in a second letter he says, "I hope you have not laid aside all thoughts of eating Norfolk dumplings in perfection. The journey from London hither is really so easy and may be performed in so short a time that, on that head, I think you cannot form any objection."

The "up" journey was still more tedious. It is thus described by the Dean. "21st Oct. 1689. At five in the morning took coach

sermon (from Rom. viii. v. 34) on the death of Mrs. Persis Eldridge (aged 76); and in 1773, on the death of Mr. John Eldridge (in his 80th year), Mr. Howe preached another sermon (from Job. v. 26), and both sermons were published.

\* See an amusing account of this learned man in *Warner's Literary Recollections*, vol. i. p. 99. He learned the Spanish tongue for the express purpose of reading Don Quixote in the original.

“ for London, in company with Mr. George England, Capt. Fuller, Mr. Albertson, and Mr. Ingram. About nine we came to Broome, Sir William Cooke’s house, where we stopped and drank a glass of sherry, and then took him with us. Alderman Ellys, Mr. Luson, Mr. Ferrier, and several others came with us to St. Thule’s, and Mr. Melbourn to Bungay. We dined at Harlston where it cost me a shilling. About six we came to Botesdale, where we lodged, and it cost me at supper two shillings. The next morning, very early, we left Botesdale and came to Bury about ten o’clock, where we stayed an hour and refreshed ourselves, and changed a horse, when I spent one shilling. Thence to Newmarket, where we dined, and it cost me one shilling and sixpence; and at eight at night we got to Bishop’s Stortford. The next morning we set out at eight o’clock, having paid four shillings each for our entertainment. As we entered Epping Forest, our coach stuck fast in a slough, so that we were forced to come out and walk in the dirt and rain to Epping, being each of us wet almost to the knees. At Epping we dined and refreshed ourselves to the expense of each man’s shilling. Then our coach coming up to us we came about two o’clock to Lea Bridge, where we were entertained barely; but, having dined and paid a shilling each, we drove very hard and came to London at seven at night. At the *Green Dragon* my brother Aldworth and Mr. Brown met me, and the latter slept with me. In the morning I paid three shillings and a penny, and then went with Mr. Brown to the Archbishop of Tuam, who received me very kindly.”

In 1739 the Norwich stage was advertized to set out from John Godfrey’s, at the Duke’s Palace, Norwich, every Wednesday morning, and to perform the journey to London in two days only, “there being a sufficient quantity of horses laid upon the road,” and it was promised that ‘moons’ should be carried before the coach when dark, “every morning and evening, for the safety of travellers.”

In 1762 the Norwich flying coach was stopped in Epping Forest by a highwayman, who informed the company that he was very poor and that a little money would be very useful, whereupon they collected six guineas, and the parties separated, mutually satisfied.

The Yarmouth "machine," in the endeavour this year to cross Earsham dam when there was a flood, stuck fast. Fortunately there was but one passenger, a woman, and she was got out of the window, but the coach had to be left till the water subsided.

When inviting Mr. James Hammond of Dover, Ives says "My house is at your service; and I can put you into a way of performing the journey in only three days." And in 1774, when writing to Dr. Ducarel, he says "By the Yarmouth coach which goes out hence on Saturday next, and arrives at the *Bull* in Bishopsgate street on Tuesday evening, I shall do myself the pleasure of sending you a brace of wild fowl, for which this obscure corner of the world is reckoned famous." This must have been a "slow coach;" not one of the "flying machines" travelled in by Syllas Neville, who thus describes his journey to Yarmouth:—"10 October, 1768. At 7 set out from the *Black Bull*, Bishopsgate street, in the coach for Norwich. Breakfasted at the *Crown* at Epping. Dined at the *Crown* at Chesterford. Supped and lay at the *Red Lion*, Newmarket. Oct. 11.—Set out at 5 o'clock. Breakfasted at the *Blue Bell*, Thetford. Dined at the *Cook* at Attleburgh, and lay at the *Maid's Head*, Norwich, and at 9 o'clock the next morning set off in the stage for Yarmouth." The return journey was thus performed:—"Oct. 14.—At 4 o'clock set off in the coach from Yarmouth, breakfasted at the *Tuns*, Bungay. Dined at the *Greyhound*, Botesdale, lay at the *Greyhound*, Bury St. Edmund's. Oct. 15.—Set out from Bury at 4. Breakfasted at Bocking. Dined at the *Swan*, Ingatestone. Got to London at 7 o'clock p.m."

Gradually the rate of travelling was improved, and in the first quarter of the present century the journey by the "Telegraph," as the coach was called, viâ Ipswich to London, occupied sixteen hours only.\*

At the south-east corner of Row, No. 52, fronting Howard street, there stood a large house, now divided into two occupations, the southwardmost portion being a shop, in which an atrocious murder was committed in 1844. It was then kept by an old lady named Harriet Candler, who sold groceries. Some men went into the house one evening under

\* William Cable, the last driver of this coach, died at Norwood in 1869, aged 76. His son now holds an appointment at the Grosvenor Hotel.

pretence of purchasing goods, and while being served these villains struck her a fatal blow on the head, robbed the till, and made their escape by running up the opposite row. For this crime three men named Royal, Hall, and Mapes were tried and acquitted; but Samuel Yarham, who had been the principal witness against them, was himself subsequently convicted of this crime and hanged at Norwich in 1845. The cost of these prosecutions was £542 8s. 6d.

Row, No. 53, from the *Quay* to *Howard Street*, called *Bank Paved Row* and *Turner's Row*. At the north-west corner is a house depicted in *Butcher's View* as having a cut-flint front similar to that of the *Duke's Head*, to which it adjoins. It was in the last century the property of John Gillam, and in 1807 was purchased for the use of a Gentleman's Club. The old front was then removed and a modern one of white brick erected and brought out close to the pavement. This building was for many years called *The Coffee Rooms*, although in fact no coffee was ever drunk there;\* but subsequently the *Subscription Rooms*. The number of members was limited to 90, elected by ballot; and admission was sought for and difficult of attainment. In time, however, the number of members fell off, and in 1840 the club was dissolved. From that time until 1871 the premises were occupied by government as a Post Office.

At the south-west corner, fronting the Quay and extending to Row No. 55, is the bank of Messrs. Gurney and Co. This building was erected in 1854 from a design by Salvin. In the 17th century the site was occupied by an Elizabethan house, which is depicted in *Corbridge's Map*. It had a large porch with a room over it; and was enclosed by high wooden palisades.† Early in the last century this old house was in the possession of Joshua Smith, Esq., son of John Smith of Great

\* Following the old name used in London, where clubs were originally formed at coffee-houses. The first coffee-house in London was opened about the year 1662. "After dinner I went to the coffee-house," says Dean Davies in 1690, and there are several similar entries in his diary. Syllas Neville also mentions going to the Yarmouth coffee-house "to hear the news."

† Some remains of the original building were discovered when the present house was erected, particularly a very fine Elizabethan window of sixteen lights in a frame of oak, the woodwork of the central division being richly carved. There is a drawing of it by Winter.



Yarmouth, and grandson of Thomas Smith of Runtun in Norfolk. John Smith is said to have "raised a great estate by the exportation of malt to Holland," and in 1710 he purchased the Lordship of Thrigby in Norfolk of Robert Castell, Esq.\* In 1722 Joshua Smith had a grant of arms to be used by all the descendants of John Smith: *gu.*, on a chev. *arg.*, between three handfuls of barley each containing five ears *or.*, as many bees *prop.* Crest—an eagle regardant, wings elevated *prop.*, beaked and membered, and crowned with a naval crown, and reposing his dexter foot upon a quadrant *or.*, the string and plummet *az.* This coat is an example of what may be called "wild heraldry." It appears on his tomb in St. Nicholas' church. He married Judith, daughter of Richard Ferrier, Esq., and upon coming to the town in 1726 for the first time after his marriage, "the inhabitants made great preparations to receive him with marks of the utmost honor and respect. A great many flags and banners were set out along the quay from the bridge to the south gate; the ships in the river had all their colours out the whole day, and their guns charged to salute him; and a great many of the inhabitants and other gentlemen went out to meet him. Between 7 and 8 o'clock in the evening they entered the town, the cavalcade consisting of about 300 horse, which marched two and two in good order along the quay from the bridge to Major Ferrier's house; after the horse followed a considerable number of chaises and chariots, and his own closed the procession which was very fine and gave great satisfaction to several thousands of spectators which were assembled to behold it; and the ringing of bells, firing of guns, and the loud acclamations of the people sufficiently demonstrated what great and just esteem and respect they had for so generous and worthy a gentleman."†—*Norwich Mercury*.

\* Blomefield, vol. xi. p. 253. Joshua Smith was lord in 1740.

† The issue of this marriage was one son and two daughters. Joshua, the son, died in 1754, unmarried, and was buried at Thrigby. Judith, the eldest daughter, died unmarried in 1804; and Elizabeth, the other daughter, married Peter Baret, of Itteringham and Horstead in Norfolk, and died in 1808, leaving an only child Lydia, who died unmarried in 1845. Among the possessions of this latter lady was Burgh Castle in Suffolk, the *GARIANONUM* of the Romans, one of the most perfect specimens of a Roman camp in the kingdom. After Miss Baret's decease it was purchased of her devisees by Sir John Peter Boileau, Bart., of Ketteringham in Norfolk.

Mr. Richard Ferrier, of the Manor House, Boughton, Cheshire, has a small

The old house above mentioned, belonging to Joshua Smith, was pulled down in the last century, and a loftier and more stately one erected by Thomas Adkin, Esq., a man of property, who for many years was in the Commission of the Peace for Norfolk. He died in 1794, aged 77. It was then purchased by Messrs. Gurney and Co.,\* who converted the whole of the ground floor, fronting the quay, to the purposes of their business as bankers.† A central door in front opened into the apartment in which to the right was the counter, and behind were the desks of the clerks. An inner door on the left communicated with the "sweating room." The former apartment was lined with fire buckets; and firearms were placed over the chimney piece in the latter.

The first regular bank at Norwich was opened by the Messrs. Gurney exactly a century since, and was one of the first established in the kingdom. Subsequently (in 1780) they opened a branch bank at Yarmouth; and James Turner, Esq., the second son of the Rev. Francis Turner, was admitted a partner. The business was conducted in an old house on the quay opposite the crane, now taken down and a modern house (No. 24) erected on the site.‡ On the death of Mr.

silver-gilt mace, which had been in the possession of Joshua Smith, and is said to have been originally used as a symbol of manorial authority. From him it descended to his granddaughter, Lydia Baret, from whom it came to the Ferriers. Judith Smith, the daughter of Major Ferrier, died in 1779, and was buried at Thrigby.

\* Mention has been made of the Gurney family, *ante*, p. 91.

† There is a drawing of this house by Winter as it then appeared.

‡ In the last year of the last century, as we learn from the journal of Mrs. Trench, the mother of the present Archbishop of Dublin, Mr. Hudson Gurney, afterwards, for many years, a member of the House of Commons, and distinguished for his great ability, and the patronage which his large fortune enabled him to extend to literary men, was filling a subordinate position in the Yarmouth bank. Mrs. Trench, then Mrs. St. George, alike distinguished by her wit and beauty, brought an introductory letter to the bankers in which she was merely described as a person "travelling alone for her health" who might require their assistance, as she was on her way to the Continent. The seniors in the bank, supposing the traveller to be some decrepit old lady, "told off" Mr. Hudson Gurney, then a young man of two-and-twenty, to do the honors. The expression of his surprise at beholding so fascinating a creature "was conceived," says the lady, "in a very good strain of flattery." She thus describes him. "He understands several languages, seems to delight in books, and to be uncommonly well in-

James Turner, his son the late Mr. Dawson Turner became the resident partner, and the business having been removed to the present site, the whole of the upper part of this spacious house was occupied by him as a residence.

The TURNERS of Yarmouth\* trace their descent from a family of that name who were franklins or small landowners at Keningham, a village in Norfolk, now united with Mulbarton.†

Francis Turner, who was bred to the law, settled in Yarmouth, where he married Martha, the daughter of Thomas Godfrey, the town clerk, by Elizabeth his wife, one of the daughters and coheirs of Major Wilde of Lowestoft. Godfrey dying in 1704, John Carlow was appointed to succeed him as town clerk, and the latter dying in 1710 Mr. Francis Turner was elected to that office, and he became the founder of a highly-distinguished family.‡ He died in 1719 at the

"formed." She adds, "I have been detained here since last Friday waiting for a fair wind; and my imprisonment would have been comfortless enough had it not been for his attentions. He has already devoted to me one evening and two mornings, assisted me in money matters, lent me books, and enlivened my confinement to a wretched Inn by his pleasant conversation." Mr. Hudson Gurney is said to have made his escape from Paris at the time of the French Revolution, in a singular manner. General John Money, the then possessor of the Crown Point estate at Norwich, happening to be in France at the period alluded to, was in a position to demand a passport to England for himself and servant. Dismissing his French valet, the General permitted Mr. Gurney to assume for a time the place of an attendant, and by this means Mr. Gurney escaped the detention which many of his countrymen had to suffer. General John Money was the son of William Money, of Witchingham, who purchased the Trowse estate, and died in 1772. It was named Crown Point because the General was at the capture of the township so called on Lake Champlain.

\* The arms borne by this family are *sa.*, a chev. *erm.* between 3 milronds *or.* On a chief *arg.*, a lion passant *gu.*, and for a crest a lion pass. *gu.*, holding in his dexter paw a milrond *or.*; being, with a slight difference in the crest, the same arms as those borne by the Turners of Warham.

† The Manor of Keningham was in the hands of the Dukes of Norfolk until Queen Elizabeth's time, when it was sold to Sir Thomas Gresham, and joined to Mulbarton, "though the demesnes were sold again by Sir Thomas in 1570, to Mr. Turner, and still continue in that family," says Blomefield (vol. v. p. 74), writing in 1736; as they do, it may be added, to this day.

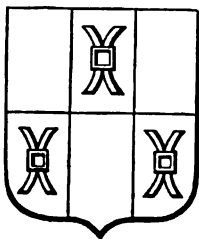
‡ There had previously been a family of this name in Yarmouth, of whom was the Rev. John Turner, who died in 1699, and lies buried in St. Nicholas' church, under



*Turner?*



early age of 38, leaving a son the Rev. Francis Turner, who by Sarah his wife, daughter of James Dawson, was the father of four sons—Francis a surgeon, Joseph who became Dean of Norwich, Richard who became minister of the parish (all of whom we shall hereafter have occasion to mention), and James who married Elizabeth, daughter of John Cotman, Esq., and was, as we have seen, admitted a partner into the house of Messrs. Gurney and Co. when they established a bank at Yarmouth, and he became the resident manager. He filled the office of mayor in 1779, and died in 1794, aged 50, leaving a widow who survived until 1819, when she died, aged 76. Two sons were the issue of the above marriage, namely **DAWSON TURNER**, Esq., who succeeded his father as managing partner in the business of the bank, and resided for many years in the house above mentioned, and James Turner, Esq., who married a daughter of James Sayers, Esq., and died in 1820, leaving an only son James Sayers Turner, who died in 1837. Dawson Turner was born in 1775, somewhat prematurely, at No. 40, Middlegate Street, while his mother was paying a visit at the house of her husband's uncle. He received the earliest rudiments of education at the North Walsham Grammar School, then conducted by the Rev. Joseph Hepworth, whence he was removed to Barton, and placed under the private tuition of the Rev. Robert Forby.\* In 1793 he was entered at Pembroke College, Cambridge, of which his uncle, the Rev. Joseph Turner, Dean of Norwich, was master; but in consequence of the death of his father in the following year, he was compelled to leave the University



a slab, bearing this shield of arms. John Turner, of Yarmouth, in 1714, voted at the Norfolk election for Sir Ralph Hare and Erasmus Earle, in respect of freehold property in Yarmouth.

\* This eminent scholar, a Fellow of Caius College, Cambridge, was born at Stoke Ferry, Norfolk, and educated under the Rev. Dr. Lloyd, at the Free School, Lynn. Having resigned his fellowship to undertake the education of the sons of Sir John Berney, he received from that baronet the living of Horningtoft in Norfolk, and died Rector of Fincham, Norfolk, in 1825. In 1830 was published his *Vocabulary of East Anglia*, which, says the title page, was "an attempt to record the vulgar tongue of the twin-sister counties of Norfolk and Suffolk." His portrait is engraved by Mrs. Turner.

(where he subsequently took the degree of M.A.) and apply himself to the less congenial occupation of banking. The charms of literature were, however, irresistible, and during a long life Mr. Turner devoted every minute that could be spared from business, with insatiable ardour, to the pursuit of his favorite studies, among which the first was botany. In 1797 he was elected Fellow of the Linnæan Society; in 1802 he published *A Synopsis of the British Fuci*; in 1804 *Muscologia Hibernica Spicilegium*; in 1805 the *Botanist's Guide through England and Wales*, and in 1808 *Historia Fucorum*, a splendid work in four quarto volumes, with coloured plates. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1802, of the Society of Antiquaries in 1803, of the Dublin Society and Royal Irish Academy in 1804, and of the Royal Society of Literature in 1824. The foreign literary honors conferred upon Mr. Turner were extremely numerous. In 1820 he published his *Tour in Normandy, chiefly undertaken with a view of investigating the Architectural Antiquities of that Duchy*; and he wrote the letter press for Cotman's *Etchings of Architectural Antiquities in Normandy*, in two folio volumes. In 1831 Mr. Dawson Turner did good service to the antiquarian world by publishing the *Correspondence of John Pinkerton* from the originals in his own possession; and in 1835 he edited and printed at Yarmouth the *History of the Religious Orders and Communities and of the Hospitals and Castle of Norwich*, written about the year 1725 by John Kirkpatrick. In 1839 he printed, for private circulation only, a *Catalogue of the Works of Art in the possession of Sir Peter Paul Rubens at the time of his decease, together with two Letters from Sir Balhasar Gerbier*; and in 1847 appeared his *Sepulchral Reminiscences* as afforded by a list of the interments within the walls of the Parish Church of St. Nicholas, Great Yarmouth, collected chiefly from monuments and gravestones still remaining in June, 1845. The book is dedicated to the Rev. Henry Mackenzie, then Minister of the Parish, and now Bishop Suffragan of Nottingham, whose church had supplied the "memoranda of the dead," and "whose precept and example afforded alike instruction and comfort to the survivors." Mr. Turner also printed, for private distribution, *Outlines in Lithography*, being drawings on stone by several of the members of his talented family, of pictures then in his possession. He was



*The Rev. Francis Turner, A.M.*







instrumental in establishing the *Norfolk and Norwich Archaeological Society*, of which he became the first vice-president; wrote the preface to the *Norfolk Archaeologia*, and was a frequent contributor to its pages. No person of any literary pretensions ever visited Yarmouth without being invited to the table of Mr. Dawson Turner, where he was sure to meet with an intellectual treat.\* The walls of his rooms were adorned with pictures by celebrated masters,† and he had in the course of years collected a very extensive and valuable library, many of the works being plentifully illustrated. The most remarkable work of this description in Mr. Turner's library was his Blomefield's *History of Norfolk*,‡ the eleven volumes of which were swelled into seventy by the introduction of MSS., printed matter, drawings, and engravings. Of original drawings alone there are about four thousand, mostly by Cotman and the members of Mr. Turner's family who had been his pupils. These volumes present the finest illustrated county history ever formed. They were purchased for the nation at the price of £460, and are now in the library of the British Museum. His collection of autographs was one of the largest and most valuable ever made. Among the historical documents was the *Conventual Register and Chartulary of Glastonbury*, written on vellum circa 1307, which brought at the sale £141. Dr. Tanner, Bishop of St. Asaph, when a student at Christ's church, Oxford, sending one evening to a grocer's shop for some tobacco,

\* A constant and welcome guest was the Rev. James Layton, for many years curate of Catfield. He wrote the letter press for Cotman's *Norfolk Brasses*. There is a portrait of him by Eddis, which has been engraved. Another honored guest was Francis Douce, the learned antiquary, who died in 1834, aged 72. Crome, Cotman, Phillips, and other distinguished artists frequently met at Mr. Turner's table. Crabb Robinson, after describing a visit paid by him, says, "This house is the most agreeable I ever visited. No stay would be unpleasantly long there." *Diary*, vol. ii. p. 369.

† Among these may be mentioned Bellini's Virgin with the infant on her knee, attended by saints, which sold for 360 guineas; Titian's Rape of Europa (a finished sketch), £288; and a landscape by Hobbima, which passed into the Scarisbrick Collection for £252, and was resold in 1861 for 440 guineas.

‡ Mr. Turner had in his collection Notes upon Blomefield's History, by the Rev. George Ashby, Rector of Barrow in Suffolk, one of the ablest antiquarians that county has produced. He was president of St. John's College, Cambridge, and died in 1808, aged 84.

had the "weed" sent to him in a leaf from this very book, the inspection of which so excited Tanner's curiosity that he went the next morning and rescued from destruction what remained of the MS. Mr. Turner had also valuable documents illustrative of the period, rule, and personal history of Queen Elizabeth; and four original Letters of Oliver Cromwell which sold for upwards of £150. He passed the last few years of his life at Brompton, where he died in 1858, aged 83. When he quitted Yarmouth the Turner family became extinct there.\* He married (in 1796) Mary, second daughter of William Palgrave, Esq., a lady of rare taste and accomplishments, who died in 1850, aged 76,† and by her he had a numerous family. Of the daughters, Maria, the eldest, married Sir William Jackson Hooker, K.H.;‡ Elizabeth, the second daughter, married Sir Francis Palgrave, K.H.;§ Harriet, the fourth daughter

\* There is a portrait of him, when a young man, engraved from a picture by Sharpe. There is also a portrait of him, in middle age, etched by Mrs. Turner.

† There is an excellent likeness of Mrs. Turner, engraved on stone, by Lane, from a drawing by Eddis. Also a portrait engraved by Edwards.

‡ He was the only surviving son of Joseph Hooker, Esq., of Exeter. Born in 1785, he resided for several years at Halesworth. In 1809 he made a voyage to Iceland, and on his way back narrowly escaped destruction, his ship being on fire, and the only possible means of escape being a passing vessel. His *Tour in Iceland* was printed at Yarmouth by Keymer, in 1811, but was not published until 1813, when it was brought out by Longmans. In 1820 he was appointed Regius Professor of Botany at the University of Glasgow, where he received the degree of L.L.D. He was knighted in 1836, and appointed director of the Royal Gardens at Kew. His portrait was engraved by Mrs. Turner. There is also an engraved portrait of Lady Hooker from the same skilful hand.

§ He died in 1861, aged 72. From an early period he devoted himself with great ardour to literary and antiquarian pursuits, and in 1818 he edited a collection of Anglo Saxon Chansons, which has now become extremely rare. In 1821 he directed his attention to the public records and proposed a plan to government for their publication, which was adopted. He was for a long period a contributor to the Edinburgh and Quarterly Reviews, and his writings, both with and without his name, are very numerous; one of the most esteemed being the *Rise and Progress of the English Commonwealth*. In 1827 he was called to the bar, and for several years was frequently engaged in pedigree cases before the House of Lords. In 1838, on the reconstruction of the Record Service, he was appointed deputy keeper; which office he retained till his death. For his public services he was nominated a K.H., and he was a member of the Royal and Antiquarian Societies. Of Lady Palgrave it was said by Crabb Robinson, in his *Diary*, that she had "more beauty, elegance, sense and taste united, than he had seen for many a long time." Vol. ii. p. 272.

{who died in 1869), married the Rev. John Gunn, Rector of Irstead, one of the most profound of English Geologists; and Eleanor, the sixth and youngest daughter, married Dr. Jacobson, now Bishop of Chester.

The first occupant of the above-mentioned house after being rebuilt was Thomas Brightwen, Esq.,\* the resident partner, who married Hannah, fifth daughter of Dawson Turner, Esq. It is now the residence of Henry E. Buxton, Esq., the succeeding partner.†

At the south-east corner of Row, No. 53, and occupying the space between it and Row, No. 55, is an old flint-built house, facing Howard street (No. 58), having some ornamental ironwork on its front.

Row, No. 54, from *Howard Street* to the *Market Place*, called *Almshouse Row*, there having been in it on the south side a number of almshouses which were sold in 1842 by the guardians, with the approbation of the Poor Law Commissioners. On the north side is a very old doorway leading to what, probably, at one time was a house of some importance.

Row, No. 55, from the *Quay* to *Howard Street*, called *Gurney's Bank Row*. The house at the south-west corner was occupied for many generations as a bookseller's shop. In the early part of the last century it was in the possession of William Eaton, who, in 1728, published *A Rudimental Examination previous to Grammar, for the use of the Grammar School at Yarmouth*. After his death the house above mentioned passed into the possession of Messrs. Downes and March, who, in 1784, had leave "to box out the whole length of their shop 5 feet 7 inches." March, as we have seen, went to seek his fortune in the United States.

\* He was born at Power's Hall, Witham, in 1812, and entered Messrs. Gurney's banking house in Great Yarmouth, at an early age. He was a Magistrate for the borough and a deputy-lieutenant for Norfolk, Treasurer of the Borough Fund, Chairman of the Gas Company, a Charity Trustee, a director of several public companies, and connected with most of the public institutions in the town. He died greatly respected and regretted in 1870, aged 57.

† Arms—*Arg.*, a lion ramp., tail elevated and turned over the head, *sa.* betw. two mullets of the second; and for a crest, a buck's head, couped *gu.*, attired *or.*, gorged with a collar of the last, therefrom pendent an escutcheon *arg.*, charged with an African's head *sa.* The different families of Buxton probably derive the name from places so called, of which one is in Derbyshire, another in Herefordshire, and a third in Norfolk. By some it is supposed to be the same as Buckton.

John Dawson Downes, the senior partner, a man of great intelligence, was the second son of the Rev. James Downes, Rector of Stratton Strawless, by Mary his wife, sister of Gibson Lucas, Esq., of Filby. Several books issued from Downes' press; among others *A Manual of Materia Medica*, written by Dr. Aikin during his residence in Yarmouth. When Downes retired from business to enjoy during the evening of life those rural recreations in which he so much delighted,\* he was succeeded by Mr. John Beart, who conducted the business until his death in 1819, at the age of 46. He was followed successively by Mr. George Meggy,† Mr. Frederick Skill (who died in 1865), Mr. Charles Barber,‡ Mr. Louis Alfred Meall,§ and Messrs. Cobb; and on the retirement of the latter this shop

\* Downes was a man of singular skill in the breeding of domestic animals, the cultivation of fruit trees, and the training of birds. On retiring from business he took up his residence at Gunton Old Hall, near Lowestoft, where he was most earnest in his endeavour to revive the once favorite pastime of hawking. Here he was visited by Lord Rivers, Col. Wilson, Sir John Sebright, Mr. Brigg Fountaine of Narford, and other gentlemen, who took an interest in the same pursuit. In his walks he was usually attended by a tame heron. He proved satisfactorily that the same swallows revisited the same places annually, and usually on or about the same days. Downes was an open, plain-speaking matter of fact man, firmly attached to the Protestant faith, and a fine specimen of what was then called a "Church and king" man. He possessed a good library, containing, among other rare books, some curious old Treatises on Hawking. He had also a few good paintings, one being by Sir Joshua Reynolds. The whole were sold by auction after his death, which occurred at Lowestoft in 1829, at the age of 71.

† On leaving Yarmouth he took up his abode at Chelmsford, where he became the chief proprietor and publisher of the *Chelmsford Chronicle and Essex Herald*, and at his death left the business to his son Mr. George Meggy, who died in 1866, aged 59.

‡ His son Mr. C. B. Barber, a pupil of Landseer, was an exhibitor at the Royal Academy in 1871.

§ His grandfather resided in Yarmouth; and his father, when in the merchant service, was captured by the French in 1809, and confined as a prisoner of war at Arras, where he married a French lady. Louis Alfred Meall died, at an early age, in 1869, of a rapid consumption, having in the previous year lost his wife (Anna, daughter of David Hogarth, postmaster) of the same fatal disease. Had he lived his talents and energy were calculated to have advanced him to a high position in his business. He published a new edition of Mowbray's *Treatise on Poultry*; undertook the publication of Manchip's *History of Yarmouth* in 1854, and in 1856 published the *Continuation* of that History. His attachment to archaeological pursuits, in which he had acquired considerable knowledge, enabled him to render the

ceased to be that of a bookseller. The present house was erected by Messrs. Gurney and Co. from a design by Salvin.

The next house, No. 15, has for upwards of a century been a grocer's shop. It was so occupied by Mr. Draper, on whose death it was purchased by Mr. Eli Williams Morgan, who had been his apprentice, and who in 1787 had leave "to box out his shop front" as his neighbour had done. Morgan was for many years a common councilman, and died in 1835, aged 72. This house and shop are now in the occupation of Mr. John Clowes.\*

*Row*, No. 56, from *Howard Street* to the *Market Place*, called *Excise Office Row*, because the house at the north-west corner was long occupied by the officers of the excise.† It was subsequently purchased by the trustees of the savings bank, the business of which was transacted here until removed to the Market place; and is now the property of Mr. J. W. Diboll.‡ At the south-east corner, fronting the Market place and

editor much valuable assistance. He was a warm politician, and attached himself thoroughly to the Liberal party; to which the faculty he possessed of expressing himself with vigour enabled him to render essential service.

\* *Clowes*, or *Clough*, means a cliff, so that *John atte Clough* would be John living by the cliff. A family of the name has been long resident in the town.

† The excise at the present time forms in productiveness the second branch of revenue, amounting to upwards of £20,000,000 a year. Cromwell saw the advantages of a tax of this description and endeavoured to introduce it, but the opposition at that time was too great, and the measure had to be abandoned. It required all the influence and tact of Sir Robert Walpole to carry an excise bill in 1733. Great pressure was put upon members; and Col. Townshend, one of the borough representatives, was compelled to vote against the measure, while his colleague Edward Walpole supported it. Some idea of the opposition may be gathered from the following anecdotes:—Joseph Kells of Woodbridge, who had been sent to London "to solicit against the excise," was seized in the Court of Requests for hissing Sir Robert Walpole. He was admitted to bail for £500. No opportunity was omitted to evince the public dislike. During the performance of a play at the Haymarket Theatre, one of the comedians took the liberty of throwing out some reflections on the Prime Minister and the excise, which were not designed by the author. One of the Walpoles, who was in the house, immediately went behind the scenes and demanded of the prompter whether such words were in the play, and upon being answered in the negative, he severely corrected the witty player with his own hands.

‡ This name, varied also to Diball, is probably Danish.

extending to the next Row, No. 58, is a public house which for upwards of a century has been known as the *Elephant and Castle*, and was rebuilt in 1831.\*

There were formerly some good houses in this row, standing back and fronting south, showing that the rows in former times were pleasanter places to dwell in than they are at present.

Row, No. 57, from the *Quay* to *Howard Street*, called *Carpenters' Arms Row*. At the north-west corner stands a house now the property and residence of Lady Elizabeth Orde.† Early in the last century there stood on this site a house which is depicted in Corbridge's Map. It had a balustrade at the top adorned with three large figures of hay-makers; and belonged to Richard Ferrier, Esq., who resided at Hemsby, and was then in the occupation of Samuel Artis, Esq., merchant and postmaster of Yarmouth, who died in 1748.‡ There were four

\* Shakspeare, in *Twelfth Night*, mentions the sign of the *Elephant*.

"At the south suburbs,—at the *Elephant*,

"Is best to lodge: I will bespeak our diet."

The first elephant in England, after the prehistoric times, is probably that which Henry III. kept at the tower. The *Castle* was added when our intercourse with India first made the public familiar with that symbol of Eastern magnificence.

† Second daughter of Henry Charles, sixth Duke of Beaufort, K.G., and widow first of Captain Lord Edward O'Brien, R.N. (who died in 1824), and secondly of General James Orde, who commanded the 99th Regiment at Halifax, Nova Scotia, in 1812. He married first Margaret, eldest daughter of William Beckford, Esq., the celebrated owner of Fonthill Abbey, by the Lady Margaret his wife, daughter of the Earl of Aboyne. General Orde died in 1850.

‡ He was the son of James Artis, Esq., who died in 1724. He "brought home his lady from London," says Ives, writing in 1736, "where he was married. She is next August fifteen years of age and he is sixty-six." This must have been his second wife. He left his manor of Bacons in Gorleston, and all his estates in Gorleston, Bradwell and Southtown, to his daughter Mary, the widow of the Rev. John Prattant (who had been one of the ministers of St. George's Chapel), for her life, with remainder to her daughter Mary, who married Francis Larwood, Esq., of Norwich, barrister-at-law, who died in 1750. When George II. landed at Lowestoft in 1737, Mr. Artis hastened to Lowestoft and offered his majesty the loan of four carriage horses, which was accepted, and being added to Mr. Jex's chaise and pair, they drew his majesty to Saxmundham, "where he was accommodated with a set of horses by the Lord Strafford." Ives, in his journal, says, "At about eight o'clock in the morning (Jan. 13th) saw fifteen vessels riding at anchor off the

trees in front of this house close to where the pavement now is, with a stone "mounting step." This house was rebuilt by Mr. Thos. Cotton,

"Holme, and heard several guns fire. At ten o'clock made them out to be the "king's yachts with the Royal Standard flying on board the *Carolina*. At about "twelve o'clock they weighed," and half an hour later the king landed at Lowestoft. Forty sailors in white shirts went into the sea up to their chins, and as soon as the boat conveying his majesty came to them, they took it out of the sea and carried it safe on shore on their shoulders. "His majesty," says Ives, "was driven up to "Mr. Jex's house, where he refreshed himself for an hour. About five hundred "horsemen accompanied him to Mutford bridge. The people stood on the hill and "filled the air with their shouts of long live King George. His majesty returned "his loving subjects many thanks for all their care towards him, and then "proceeded on to London."

The following verses were written on his majesty's safe landing at Lowestoft, January 14th, 1736, having escaped a dangerous storm at sea.

Ye sons of loyalty with candour read  
These humble verses from a loyal maid ;  
Poetick errors she is free to own,  
But hopes her zeal will want of skill atone.  
In all my country's joy I claim a share,  
My king and country are for ever dear.  
Oh ! may these lines my faithful ardour show  
'Tis almost treason to be silent now.  
Great George in safety is return'd again  
From all the dangers of the raging main ;  
Blest be the day, be none distinguish'd more  
Than that which brought him to the Suffolk shore.  
Methinks I see the glad expectant crowd,  
Which on the sandy beach impatient stood,  
Twice twenty sailors, rob'd in decent white,  
Survey the distant pinnacle with delight ;  
And e'er the royal boat can reach the land,  
Plunge in the waves and bear it to the strand.  
The joyful multitudes, with loud acclaim,  
Surround the king and shout his much-loved name,—  
The much-lov'd name from shore to shore resounds,  
The surging deep re-echoes back the sounds ;  
O let the united nation grateful meet,  
And strive who best their welcome lord shall greet ;  
Tune every instrument of joy, and sing  
How bounteous Heav'n preserved the gracious king ;  
When storms and waves their mutual horrors joined,  
With winds and seas their strongest force combin'd,  
Bright ministerial angels then were near,



an eminent merchant, for his own residence. In the early part of the present century it was occupied by Mr. John Shalders, a celebrated bookbinder, who died at Norwich in 1866, suddenly whilst sitting in his chair, in the 88th year of his age. The front of the house erected by Mr. Cotton was rebuilt by John Brightwen, Esq., who resided here for many years, during which he was an active partner in the Yarmouth Bank of Messrs. Gurney and Co. Latterly he resided at Thorpe by Norwich, where he died in 1864, aged 82 s.p.\*

This row (No. 57) is called *Star and Garter Row* from a public house with that sign at the south-west corner. It is an old house and had a smooth and squared-flint front with stone dressings, and upon the former two figures of the date 15— remained until the old front was cased with white bricks in 1864. There is a drawing of it, in its former state, by Winter. This house was originally called the *Crown and Thistle*, a sign which came into vogue on the accession of James I.† In the early part of the last century it belonged to a family named Haslope. At the south-east corner and occupying the space between this row and row No. 59 there is an old house, fronting Howard street, in which are some unpainted wainscotted rooms. It is now called the *Carpenters' Arms*.‡

In a house on the north side of this row (the fifth door from the

George and Great Britain had their guardian care;  
O'er him their sacred wings extended wide,  
Check'd the rude winds and stemmed the swelling tide;  
May these mean lays some happy bard inspire,  
Whose raptur'd bosom glows with native fire;  
And let this theme by him, be nobly drest—  
A monarch serv'd and three great nations blest.

\* He married Miss Aggs; and they were both long distinguished for their active benevolence and extensive charities. By his will he bequeathed £200 to the Yarmouth Hospital, and £100 to the Sailors' Home.



† The annexed designs of "The Rose and Crown" and the "Crown and Thistle" are from a Proclamation of James I.

‡ The Carpenters were incorporated in 1477, but had existed as a guild or fraternity in London from an earlier period; their "arms"—*arg.*, a chev. eng. betw. three compasses *sa.*, having been conferred in 1466.



quay) there lived for many years, during the first part of the present century, in a hired room, and procuring a scanty and uncertain maintenance as a sempstress, that remarkable woman SARAH MARTIN, whose active and self-denying philanthropy will render her name renowned and respected for generations to come. Some account of her good deeds will be found in the *Continuation to Manship*, p. 255. She died in 1843, aged 52, and lies buried at Caister. In the same house, in 1868, died Susannah Swanton, widow, aged 93.

*Row, No. 58, from Howard Street to the Market Place.*

*Row, No. 59, from the Quay to Howard Street.* At the north-west corner is the bank of Sir E. K. Lacon, Bart., Lacons, Youell, & Co., which has a modern white-brick front, from a design by Mr. Phipson. It occupies the site of an old Elizabethan house, in which all the principal rooms were panelled with oak. In two of them were carved-oak chimney pieces reaching from the floor to the ceiling, bearing the date 1598. Both are preserved in the present building. That which is now in the private room of the bank bears, in the freize, the initials R.W. being those of Ralph Woolhouse, bailiff in 1558, 1567, 1579, and 1590, and a man of considerable influence in his day. Mr. Le Grice, then Member for Yarmouth, writing to the bailiffs in 1586, thus speaks of him. "I have known him a long time, by good experience, to be both "wise, honest, and discrete; and as good a townsman as any among "you (without offence to any man be it spoken). I fear you have but "few such among you. I would you had many in wisdom, government, "and experience to match him."

In 1567 there was a state lottery for the encouragement of public works, in which it was determined to take tickets, and apply the prizes, if any, towards the reparation of the haven. Each ticket was represented by a "posey."—£15 of the town's money was applied to this purpose, and sent with the following couplet in the name of Mr. Ralph Woolhouse—

*"Yarmouth haven—God send thee speede,*

*"The Lord he knowyth thy great neede."*

The following significant "posey for the ladies" was sent in the name of Mrs. Margaret Woolhouse, the bailiff's wife—

*"A small stocke—with good success,*

*"May shortly growe to greates increase."*

"What success these adventures had I nowhere find," saith Swinden.\*

During Mr. Woolhouse's year of office (1580) a singular incident occurred. Scroby sand, then about a mile in length and three miles distant from the town, became perfectly dry and herbage grew upon it; so that it seemed determined to follow the example of the sand upon which Yarmouth is built, and, in the language of Nash, "to live no more under the yoke of the sea, or have its head washed with his bubbly spurn, but clearly to quit, distermine and regulate itself from his inflated capriciousness of playing dictator over it." Seeing this Mr. Bailiff Woolhouse "being careful to benefit the town to the utmost of his power," determined to "annex" it. Accordingly one fine morning in August the bailiff, accompanied by about a dozen knights and gentlemen from the county, and attended by the recorder, sub-steward, town clerk, and "certain of the wisest and most discrete-burgesses," put to sea and landed upon Scroby sand, of which, in due form, his worship took possession on behalf of the town, naming it "Yarmouth Island," and declaring it to be part of the borough. For its better preservation he then caused the upper end to be fenced by a hedge, thereby encouraging the accumulation of sand. After dinner many loyal and patriotic toasts were drank, the company then played at bowls, and in the evening the bailiff and his retinue returned on shore, well satisfied with their day's work.† Not so the Lord of the

\* P. 422. Public lotteries were abolished in 1826. Mr. Dawson Turner made a collection of handbills (now in the Library of the British Museum) issued by lottery office keepers, which affords a curious illustration of the various means adopted by them to induce the public to part with their money.

† By the "careful skilfulness and skilful carefulness" of Jeffery Whitney, the town clerk, an account of this taking possession by the bailiff was entered upon the borough roll with the names of all who attended on the bailiff's invitation. A facsimile of this entry was published by the Rev. Henry Green, in his edition of Whitney's *Emblems*. Among the knights present on the above occasion was Sir Ralph Shelton, of a very old Norfolk family.

*The Shelton coat, both fair and ancient was;  
In azure field is set a golden cross,*

His witty but improvident descendant, Sir Robert Shelton, sold his manor of Great Snoring in Norfolk to Chief Justice Richardson; for said he, "Thank God, I can

Manor of Scratby, Sir Edward Clere, who denounced the whole proceeding as illegal; and having satisfied himself that the island belonged to him as parcel of his manor of Scratby, to which it was directly opposite, he also took possession and retained it by building on the sand a house of timber. The island having become covered by marram, sea-fowl built their nests there; and it was resorted to by the inhabitants of Yarmouth, who took thither their wives and families, and having "feasted" they played at bowls "and used other pastimes." The goods of shipwrecked vessels were occasionally cast upon it, especially in 1582 when "sundry silks, wax, and such like rich commodities were there found, and by the town taken, carried away, and enjoyed; although Sir Edward Clere greatly contended thereabouts;" but shortly afterwards the whole island was reclaimed by the sea, "whereby the knight and Yarmouth were equally wholly dispossessed."\*

In the latter part of the last century the above-mentioned house was in the occupation of Peter Upcher, Esq., who married one of the two daughters and co-heirs of John Ramey, Esq.† It was subsequently

asleep without Snoring." Another of these knights was Sir Arthur Haveningham, who was High Sheriff of Norfolk in the following year, and in 1596 he and Sir John Peyton were entertained at the town's charge at Bailiff Ponyet's house. In 1615 the corporation sent "two double Jacobuses to the marriage of two of the servants of Sir John Haveningham (the son and successor of Sir Arthur), who by his letters requested the goodwill of the town therein." The Haveninghams bore quarterly *or.* and *gw.*, a bordure eng. *ss.* charged with eight escallops *arg.* Among the guests was Thomas Tasburgh, Esq. He was of a Suffolk family, settled at Flixton, who bore *arg.*, a chev. *ss.* betw. three palmer's staves with scips *ss.*, gar. *or.* Robert Tasburgh filled the office of bailiff in 1498 and 1504. Another guest was Ichingham Everard, Esq. Families of this name have long flourished in Norfolk and Suffolk, and especially at Lynn and Lowestoft. They bore *arg.*, a fesse wavy betw. three estoils *gu.*

\* The sandbanks which form Yarmouth Roads and act as a natural breakwater, are constantly changing their shapes and positions. Captain William Hewett, R.N., found in 1836 a broad channel sixty-five feet deep, where there had only been a depth of four feet when surveyed in 1822. It is called Hewett's channel, and through it the largest ship in her Majesty's navy can pass. Capt. Hewett was a distinguished hydrographer, and was employed for twenty years on this service in the *Protector* and the *Fairy*. He was lost, with all hands, in the latter vessel, on the 13th of November, 1841. See Lyell's *Geology*, vol. ii., p. 54.

† Son of Robert Upcher, Esq., of Sudbury, who died at Ormesby in 1787. Of the above marriage there was issue three sons,—Ramey and Robert, the two eldest

divided and occupied by Miss Susan Mitchell and Miss Harriet Mitchell, each of whom conducted a school.

Between Row No. 59 and Row No. 61 stood several very old houses fronting the quay, of which some slight vestiges still remain.\*

This property in the last century belonged to the Fuller family, and afterwards to the Manclarkes. The central house was an old tavern called the *Mitre*, and afterwards the *Sun*. It had a painted sign exhibiting that luminary in all its glory, and beneath were the words "the best beer," so that it might be read "the best beer under the sun." In 1811 this house was partially taken down and enlarged, the front was cased with white bricks and the ground floor brought out to the pavement. It was then called the *Crown and Anchor*,† and was first tenanted by Mr. George Wicks, who had originally been a jockey at Newmarket.‡

In the house to the north, now occupied with the tavern, there was at the commencement of the present century a fruiterer's and pastry-cook's shop, having an open unglazed front, and being one of the last specimens of that kind of shop then remaining. It was kept by an old woman well known as "Mother Pomona." She had been drummed

died in their youth, the first by a fall from a horse whilst at school at North Walsham; and the second of a fever. The family fortunes then devolved on Abbott Upcher, the youngest son, who married Charlotte, daughter of Henry Lord Berners; and died in 1819, aged 34. In 1807, when just of age he was nominated as a candidate for the representation of the town in parliament, but this was a pleasantry of his friends, as only twenty-one votes were recorded in his favor. Soon after this event Mr. Upcher retired from Yarmouth, and resided for the rest of his life at Sherringham in Norfolk. See *ante*, p. 266.

\* On the south side of Row No. 59 may be seen an ancient flint wall in which can be traced the head of an arch now filled up. There is also an Elizabethan square-headed doorway of stone with carved spandrels.

† In 1870 this house was purchased by Mr. John Franklin, who had previously been the tenant. A *franklin* in the reign of Edward III. was a substantial householder or a yeoman having a small landed estate.

‡ He had also been a servant to Miss Church of King street, and afterwards kept the *Black Lion* in Queen street. Whilst there, Samuel Adams the tapster had to carry some porter on board a vessel at the quay. The landlord's son, a boy of eight years, accompanied him, and on going on board ship fell into the river. Adams endeavoured to save him, and they were both drowned.

out of Hopton camp by order of the Earl of Orford; and when twitted with this unpleasant reminiscence by audacious boys, she would, in her rage, fling her apples at them to their intense delight. A "fast young man" of the period one day, for a wager, seized upon her glass stand of custards and syllabubs and ran with it on his head round the quay, but soon came to grief. Over this shop was a panelled room which still remains, having a carved mantel piece with the date 1591.

Next the row was a barber's shop, over which in 1800 lodged the Rev. Sir Herbert Croft, Bart., who when there wrote a letter, which he printed, addressed to Southey, containing bitter remarks on what the latter had published in the *Monthly Magazine*, relative to the baronet's conduct to the family of Chatterton the poet. Croft had obtained possession from Mrs. Newton of all her brother's MSS. under the promise, as she said, of their speedy return; but after keeping them some months Croft published a selection in a pamphlet entitled *Love and Madness*. Southey, who was a Bristol man, warmly espoused the cause of Mrs. Newton; and being unable to obtain any redress from Sir Herbert Croft, he, after detailing the case in the *Monthly Magazine*, published a new edition of the poetical works of the "Marvellous Boy," and by that means had the satisfaction of paying over to Mrs. Newton and her daughter a sum exceeding £300, which sufficed to rescue them from great poverty and distress.\*

At the north-west corner of Row, No. 61, there is a house with its gable towards the quay (as may be seen in Butcher's Picture), now masked by a modern front.† It was anciently called *The Coalmeters*, being frequented by that body of men.‡ The sign was changed to that

\* Sir Herbert Croft, who was the author of a great variety of publications, died at Paris, where he had resided for some years, in 1816, aged 65, a.p.m.

† The house is a very old one, but has now been almost entirely rebuilt from time to time. In 1865 the south wall being in a ruinous state was pulled down, and then a large pointed arch and two smaller ones of very ancient date were discovered.

‡ The corporation had the privilege of the metage or measurage of coals. To perform this duty they appointed a limited number of coal meters, and when one of them died they were accustomed to sell the place to the highest bidder, sometimes obtaining as much as £600. At that time there was a government duty of 6s. per ton on all coals imported, and a local tax under the Church and Chapel Acts. All

of the *Earl St. Vincent*, when that title was conferred on Sir John Jervis, and the house was then much used by the officers and seamen of the fleet.

EARL ST. VINCENT was long a popular naval hero at Yarmouth, but until chosen, when Sir John Jervis, its representative in parliament was totally unconnected with the place. The coalition in 1783 between North and Fox, after years of virulent opposition, excited great discontent among many of their respective followers who considered themselves betrayed for the sake of power and place. When in the following year Pitt received the seals of office, the freemen determined to give expression to their feelings by refusing to re-elect the Hon. Richard Walpole and Mr. Charles Townshend (afterwards Lord Bayning), who were both coalitionists. Searching for a candidate they selected Sir John Jervis, who had, when in command of the *Foudroyant*, recently made himself famous by capturing the French man-of-war *Pagase* of 74 guns and 700 men. With him they associated Mr. Henry Beaufoy, a stranger to the town but an effective speaker, advocating liberal principles;\* and such was the popular enthusiasm that their election was carried by acclamation, the Walpole and Townshend party being so discouraged that they dared not go to a poll.† The earl was accustomed in his latter years to declare

these duties are now abolished, as are the meters places; but there are still a few coal meters living who enjoy pensions. The meters employed gangs of coalheavers who were accustomed, when waiting for an engagement, to sit about on the pavement outside this house in summer, like Lazzaroni at Naples.

\* An election song had this refrain—

"That coin is the best which has got least alloy,

"So we cannot do better than vote for Beaufoy."

† Paley, in his *History of Boroughs*, cites this election to prove that although "the families of Townshend and Walpole had some *interest* here, yet it was not in such a degree as to be called an *influence*." Although Mr. Townshend did not on this occasion go to a poll, his candidature cost him a considerable sum, and the items in his bill of expenses are curious. The sum of £61 14s. 2d. was expended in "breakfasting" the freemen at three taverns. £119 1s. 0d. for "wine at the hall;—£16 5s. 7d. for grocery (including "lemons and sugar for punch")—£93 3s. 8d. for "cockades," seventeen persons having been employed in their manufacture, chiefly ladies. The sum of £466 7s. 9d. was paid to "freemen," and £158 9s. 11d. for "incidents," every item being particularized down to 10s. 6d. for "a fidler." This account, amounting to £915 2s. 1d., was duly vouched, and certified as correct by Mr. William Fisher and four other supporters of Mr. Townshend. In explanation

that three of the most important events of his life occurred within two years, (*viz.*) his knighthood, marriage, and return to parliament. At the dissolution in 1790 being then in active service he was not a candidate; and Mr. Townshend regained his seat. In 1796, on the occasion of a vacancy, Sir John Jervis was requested to stand, but being then employed in the blockade of Toulon, he declined. Very soon afterwards, however, both seats became vacant, and Sir John was put in nomination and went to the poll; but the Townshend party had again become dominant, and he was defeated. In the following year Sir John

of the sum paid to freemen, it is to be observed that early in the 18th century the leaders of the political parties in the borough, instead of bidding against each other for votes, the end of which they knew must be ruinous, agreed to pay each freeman who claimed it the sum of two guineas "for loss of time," whether the candidate was successful or not; and for the long period during which this custom prevailed down to the passing of the Reform Act, it is believed that no other direct payments of money ever took place; and although declared by a committee of the House of Commons in 1834 to be bribery, it was never looked upon in that light. In 1790, when the "House of Rainham" determined to regain their influence in the borough, the sum of £1400 11s. 4d. was expended by Mr. Townshend. The account was kept by Mr. James Fisher, Jun., and by it we find that no less a sum than £384 1s. 9d. was expended in "wine, &c.," the bill at the *Wrestlers* amounting to £158 17s. 6d. The sum of £171 9s. 7d. was laid out in cockades, and it seems to have been the custom for the ladies of the party to employ themselves in the manufacture of them, being paid the cost of the riband. The sum of £413 was paid to freemen for votes divided with Mr. Beaufoy, who paid the like sum, and £134 for votes divided with Mr. Sandys, who paid the same, and the "incidents" amounted to £298, including £34 18s. 9d. for "deficiencies at monthly clubs held at the *Wrestlers* in 1788, 1789, and 1790." This account is signed by six of Mr. Townshend's supporters. A supplemental bill of £241 16s. 7d. was divided between the successful candidates Townshend and Beaufoy. This included £109 16s. 8d. paid to the town clerk "for freedoms." It was the practice among the poorer classes entitled to their freedom not to "take it up," which was attended with expense, until the time of an election, when either candidate would readily pay the costs to secure the vote, and thus at election time the mayor and town clerk reaped a harvest of fees. With regard to the colours formerly so much used at elections, that almost every man, woman, and child in the place was more or less decorated, the electors almost invariably wearing a cockade, it may be mentioned that orange or red was originally adopted by the party who supported Dutch William and the Hanoverian succession, whilst blue was used by the Jacobites; but in the course of years the politics of parties changed so much that in Yarmouth red became the colour of the Tories and blue that of the Whigs, but it is the reverse in Suffolk.



Jervis fought the famous battle off Cape St. Vincent. When offered an earldom, he selected Yarmouth for his title; but that having been previously bestowed on the Marquis of Hertford, he took the title of St. Vincent instead. For a motto he adopted the word *Thus*, which is an expression used on board men-of-war sailing by a wind or in chase of an enemy. When the captain or master says, in giving directions to the helmsman, "thus," he means that the ship's head is to be kept directed to an indicated point of the compass. A long correspondence took place in 1800 between Lord St. Vincent and General Loftus, with the view of dividing the representation of the borough, but the partizans on either side were not to be restrained, and the negotiation failed. In 1801 Earl St. Vincent became first lord of the admiralty; and at the general election in 1802, Thomas Jervis, Esq., a barrister and first cousin to the earl, was returned to parliament for Yarmouth with Sir Thomas Trowbridge. Mr. Jervis represented the borough till 1806, when a new combination of parties took place. He was Recorder of Lichfield, a Bencher of the Middle Temple, Chief Justice of Chester, a Q. C., and when his noble relative was first lord he acted as counsel to the admiralty, and took a leading part in conducting the legal business of the navy in the house of commons. He died in 1838, aged 69. His son, Sir John Jervis, became Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, and died in 1856. Earl St. Vincent was always partial to Yarmouth and ready to do for his friends there any service in his power. He offered to take the father of the editor of this work as a midshipman on board his own ship, promising to make a thorough seaman of him; for said he "an officer should come in at the hawse hole and go out by the cabin window." On the 19th of September, 1802, being then first lord, he wrote to Mr. Hurry, informing him that there was then room for one hundred young men as caulkers in the Chatham and Sheerness dockyards, and intimating that "any young men of good character who had served their apprenticeships regularly in Yarmouth might profit by the circumstance." The earl mentions that these men would receive "chipmoney," which was a payment to be made to them instead of the privilege of collecting chips in the dockyards, which had grown to such an abuse that the men were accustomed to leave off work half an hour

before the appointed times in order to gather chips, good and serviceable spars being frequently cut up in order to make them; and copper bolts and other articles being often concealed in the bundles.\* At the contested election in 1818, when every vote was eagerly sought for, the earl then in his 84th year, was asked to use his influence over a distant voter. "I will let fly at him," replied the veteran, "as soon as I know where to find him." He died at his seat the Rochetts near Brentwood (now the residence of Octavius E. Coope, Esq.) in 1823, aged 88.

**Row No. 60, from Howard Street to the Market Place.** At the south-east corner is a liquor shop called the *Oxford*, formerly the *White Horse*; which in 1757 was described as "abutting upon the Dene," there being then no houses eastward. This row was called *Dene-side Austin Row*, because it led from the *Denes* or *Dene-side* to a building belonging to the Augustine Friars, to whose convent, on the confines of Southtown and Gorleston, this was a cell.† Some remains are still to be seen facing Howard street, having a cut-flint front, with stone dressings; the whole now disfigured by whitewash. An arched doorway, with a square heading having quartrefoils in the spandrils, all of Caen stone, led to an apartment admeasuring sixty-five feet from north to south, and eighteen feet from east to west, with several splayed windows towards

\* At the commencement of the present century the discipline of the navy was in so relaxed a state, notwithstanding the strenuous exertions of Earl St. Vincent, as to appear at the present time almost incredible. The coast of Norfolk was in 1801 defended by gun brigs, under the command of lieutenants, who frequently hauled them up for months in creeks and snug corners, where the commanders had their cabbage gardens and pigsties. A gun brig, under the command of a near relative of Lord Nelson, thus remained for a long time at Blakeney, notwithstanding repeated orders from the admiralty for her to proceed to the Nore; until the nuisance she occasioned

to a tenant of the Marquis Townshend was so great as to cause his lordship to write to Earl St. Vincent on the subject, which led to a peremptory order for her removal.



† The arms of the cell were *az.*, three cross keys, two and one, *arg.*, and on a chief *gu.*, three dolphins, embowed *ppr.* John Pulham, described as a learned friar of this house, died in 1304. Herman Pulham was bailiff in 1450 and 1459. In the time of Ives, the antiquary, there was a coat of arms in stained glass remaining in one of the windows.

the west, all of which are now bricked up. The upper part of this doorway, of which an engraving is here given, may be seen from *Howard street*, but the floor of the apartment is now some feet below the external level. The walls remain intact, but, as to the lower part, are bare internally. The upper part of this building has been formed into a chamber by a boarded floor placed on cross beams a few feet above the level of the street, and the room thus obtained, which is now approached by some stairs on the east side, has been for nearly two centuries used as a place of meeting by the Society of Friends; and hence the adjoining row is called *Quaker's row*.



George Fox, the founder of the Society, first believed himself to be divinely commissioned to become a teacher of others about the year 1645,\* and we find in his journal under date 1655 the following entry. "So we came to Yarmouth and there stayed awhile, where there was a friend one Thomas Bond in prison for the truth of Christ. There we had some service for the Lord, and some were turned to the Lord in that town." Bond, with more zeal than discretion, had gone into the meeting house of the Independents, and had there created a great disturbance by insisting upon addressing the congregation. In a book entitled *An Abstract of the People called Quakers*, written by one of themselves, there are details of their sufferings "for testifying the truth in steeple houses, markets, and other places;" for they then considered it their duty to enter churches "and exhort the people after the priest had done;" and also "to ask questions of the priests in the steeple houses after sermons," or as they sometimes styled it "after the priest had ended his performances." Such proceedings could not be tolerated, for they were altogether contrary to religious freedom; but the Quakers had just reason to complain of the then state of the law which allowed distrainments to be made

\* The name of Quakers was first applied in 1650, because Fox admonished his followers "to tremble at the word of the Lord."

on their goods for refusing to pay church rates. They not infrequently courted persecution, and in the times of which we are speaking were intolerant of other sects.\* In 1661 the Quakers were accused of circulating in Yarmouth some papers against the oath of allegiance, printed in Holland. Thomas Tracey and three others who had brought them over, were had up before the privy council, but pleading ignorance of the contents were discharged (*State Papers*, p. 583). In 1694 the quakers in Yarmouth had so much increased in number that they purchased of Richard Robbins,† grocer, what then remained of the Augustine Cell, and the Society have ever since occupied these premises. No two religious bodies succeeding each other could be more dissimilar; the one relying greatly on external symbols and ceremonies; the other solely on spiritual grace. In 1807 their place of meeting was enlarged and fitted as we now find it.‡ In 1820 the number of Friends resident in Yarmouth, including children, was sixty-two. They are now not one-third of that number.

In a house in Row No. 60 resided for some years Mr. JOSIAH FRENCH, who was born at Norwich, where his parents were dissenters, and in a very humble position. He was apprenticed to a stocking weaver, an employment so repugnant to his feelings that when he had served his time he vowed he would never touch a stocking again except to put it on. His fine voice, a mellow base, attracted the attention of Mr. William Palgrave, then Collector of Customs, who induced young French to take up his residence in Yarmouth, by procuring for him a clerkship in the Custom house, and he soon became known at all musical meetings both

\* See Smith's *Catalogue of Quaker Literature*, Fergusson's *Sketches of Early Members of the Society of Friends*, and Clarkson's *Portraiture*.

† In 1709 Samuel Robbins was admitted a freeman on his affirmation, being probably the first quaker enfranchised; and in 1763 Mr. Peckover, grocer, was married to Sarah Sharpe at the Quakers' Meeting house, being the first marriage ever celebrated there.

‡ In the room above mentioned the late Joseph John Gurney, whose name will long be held in affectionate remembrance by the society, occasionally addressed the congregation. The simplicity of his style, the ease and gracefulness of his manner, the appropriateness of his illustrations, the telling words which he introduced, and the deep and honest interest which he always manifested, rendered him a very attractive and persuasive preacher and speaker. He died at Norwich, in consequence of a fall from his horse in 1847, aged 69.

in town and country. In 1821 French was appointed a lay clerk in the choir of St. George's chapel, Windsor, and master of the choristers' school; and to the hour of his death was zealous and punctual in the discharge of his official duties. At Windsor he cultivated his love of pictures, which had commenced during his residence at Yarmouth. His collection was continually changing; his taste and knowledge always giving him the advantage in a bargain. His rage for autographs, acquired from his intimacy with Mr. Dawson Turner, was unbounded, and the facility with which he obtained them was a marvel to his friends. "I have got it," said he to an acquaintance who had met him hurrying from Windsor Castle. "What have you got?" was enquired. "The king's autograph, to be sure," cried French, exhibiting a letter of the King of Prussia, who had not arrived above an hour. A volume of his most valuable autographs he presented to the Prince Consort, by whom French was much noticed. He died suddenly of heart disease in 1850, aged 53, unmarried, and was buried in the cemetery of St. George's Chapel at Windsor. There is an engraved portrait of him by Dawe.

On the south side of Dene Austin Row there was early in the last century a "weaving shop," possessed by a family named Theobald.\* Priscilla Theobald, widow, married (prior to 1778) Samuel Jay, shipmaster.

Now, No. 61, from the Quay to Howard Street, called the Quay Austin Row, because it led to the above-mentioned cell of the Augustine Friars. At the south-west corner is a house now occupied by the *National Provincial Bank*. It stands upon ground which, as to the front part, was occupied by a house having a cut-flint front, like those which still adjoin the present building to the south. This house was early in the last century a tavern called *The Popinjay*,† but was afterwards a private residence in the possession of John Onley, Esq., who died in 1740, aged 54. It was subsequently occupied by his widow, Judith,

\* Of the same family as the Theobalds of Norwich, well-known glovers.

† The Popinjay or Parrot is an old sign long out of fashion. It meant the figure of a bird decorated with gaudy feathers, suspended from a pole, at which marksmen practised, as described in *Old Mortality*. There was a public house with this sign at the south-west corner of Tombland, Norwich, the last tenant of which, named Copley, is said to have been the great grandfather of Lord Chancellor Lyndhurst.

the daughter of Samuel Wakeman, Esq. (who died in 1737), by Judith his wife, a daughter of Thomas Godfrey (bailiff in 1683 and 1688, and many years town clerk, who died in 1704, aged 63), until her death in 1789, aged 84, when it was sold by her only son and heir, the Rev. Charles Onley\* to Mr. George Gooch, a highly-popular tradesman, who converted the ground floor into a boot and shoemaker's shop, and let the first floor as lodgings.† The back part of the present premises

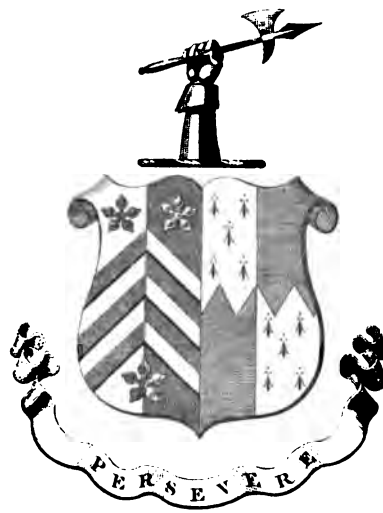
\* He removed to Stisted in Essex, where he died unmarried, and with him this branch of the Onley family became extinct. He left one sister, who married Robert Harvey, Esq., of Norwich. Their third son, Charles Harvey, inherited his maternal uncle's large fortune and took the name of Savile-Onley. He sat in Parliament for Norwich, and died in 1843, aged 87. The arms of Onley—per pale *or.* and *arg.*, three piles meeting in point counterchanged, on a canton *arg.*, a mullet pierced *sa.*: and for a crest, out of a crown valary *or.* an eagle's head issuing from flames *ppr.*, impaling Wakeman—are on a slab in St. Nicholas' Church. The arms of Savile are *arg.*, on a bend *sa.* cotised *gu.*, three owls of the field. The name of Onley had previously existed in Yarmouth. In 1641 a blacksmith took possession of a house belonging to one Miles Onley, then a prisoner at Algiers, whereupon the corporation turned him out and took the rents "on behalf of the poor captive until some course could be taken for his redemption."

† One day his son, an intelligent-looking lad, was standing on the quay by the water side watching the unmooring of a pleasure boat. Mr. Kerrich of Geldestone, to whom it belonged, wanting some assistance, asked the lad to come on board "to lend a hand," and was so pleased with his quickness and usefulness that he invited him to remain for a day's amusement on the river. Still more pleased with his youthful acquaintance, Mr. Kerrich obtained for him a berth on board an East Indiaman, where he displayed so much steadiness and ability as at length to obtain the command. He made a large fortune in the East India trade, and married Mr. Kerrich's daughter. Captain Gooch (as he was called) was one of the elder brethren of the Trinity House, and in this capacity attracted the notice of King William IV. who was, when Duke of Clarence, master of that ancient corporation. When invited to dine at the palace, Gooch went in his official dress; and on one occasion the king, with that observance of costume for which the royal brothers were remarkable, noticed that his dress was incorrect, for said his majesty good humouredly "you wear *black* straps instead of *white* ones." Mr. Kerrich who thus gave young Gooch his "first step on the ladder," was of a family of considerable antiquity in the county of Suffolk, John Kerrich having represented Dunwich in parliament in the 2 Edw. II. The Rev. Thomas Kerrich, Principal Librarian of the University of Cambridge, Prebendary of Lincoln, and Vicar of Dersingham, who died in 1728, aged 81, made large archæological collections which are now in the British Museum. This family bore *sa.*, on a pile in point *arg.*, a caltrap of the field, granted in 1630 to Capt. Kerrich, a distinguished diplomatist in the reign of Charles I. John Kerrich, Esq., of Geldeston, who died in 1871, aged 73, was for many years a haven commissioner.

occupy the site of another public house which was called the *Rops Dancers*, and afterwards (in 1784) the *Blue Anchor*. In 1808 the houses both front and back were purchased by Edward Symons Ommanney, Esq., who took down all the old buildings and erected the present house on the site, with a handsome verandah and balcony in front, now removed.\* He married Henrietta Maria, daughter of Sir Edmund Lacon, Knt. and Bart., and died at Bedford in 1848, aged 68.† In 1832 the above-mentioned house was purchased by Samuel Palmer, Esq., who was Mayor of Yarmouth in 1840, 1842, and 1845. He married Augusta, youngest daughter of Thomas Burton, Esq., and died in 1850, s.p. (from the effects of an accident, having been thrown out of his carriage on the Southtown

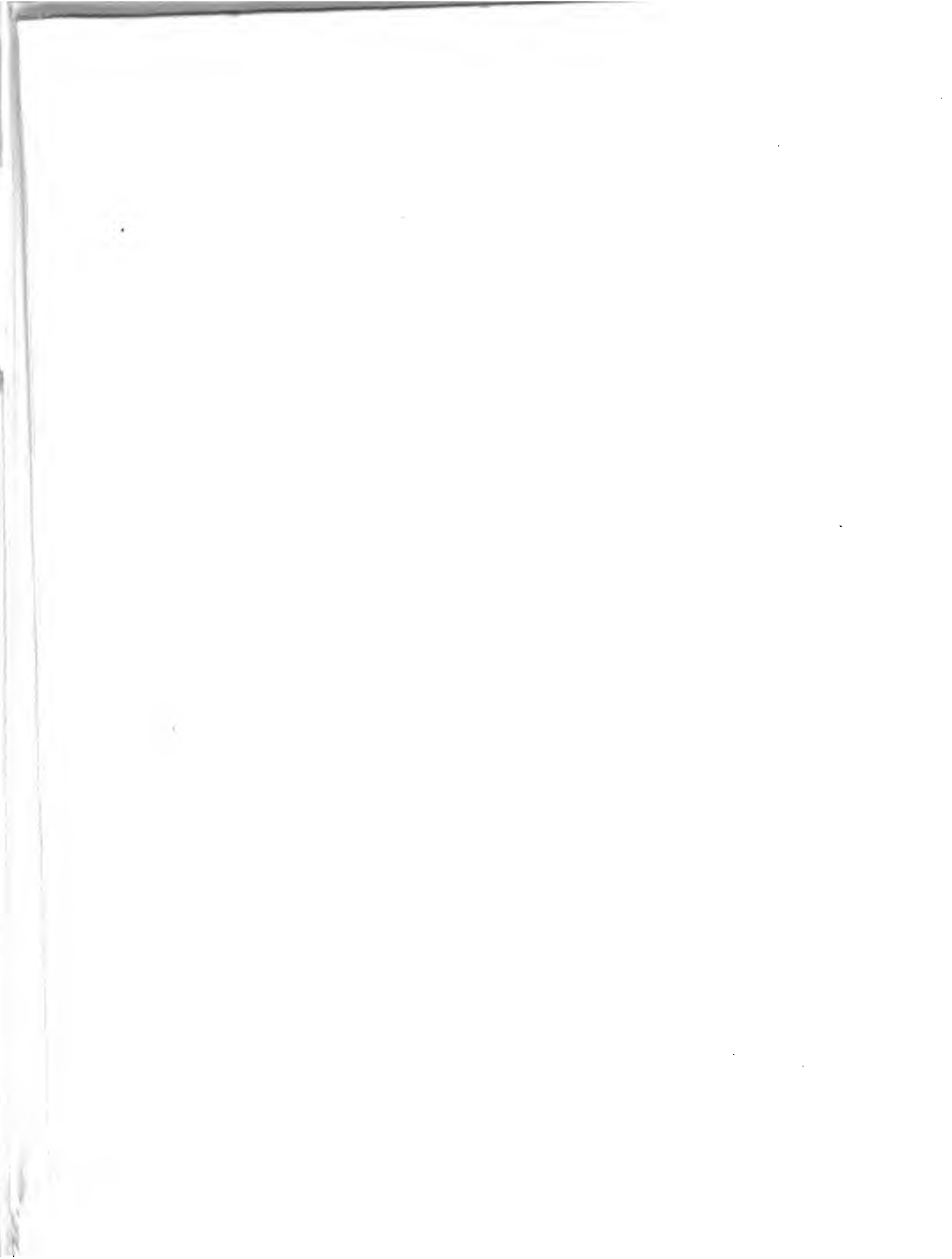
\* For the convenience of the business of the bank, the ground floor has been brought out to the pavement.

† He was a son of Rear-Admiral Cornthwaite Ommanney (by his marriage with Miss Maniton), who died in 1801, aged 64, "sincerely lamented by all his acquaintance." Mr. E. S. Ommanney's eldest brother, Admiral Sir John Ackworth Ommanney, K.C.B., died in 1855, aged 82. In 1793, the latter then a lieutenant, accompanied Lord Macartney's expedition to China. In 1797, when in command of the *Busy*, 18, on the Yarmouth station, he intercepted a large fleet of merchantmen under the convoy of a Swedish frigate, and sent the whole to the Downs. He was at the battle of Navarino, where he commanded the *Albion*, 74. His last appointment was that of commander-in-chief at Devonport. Another brother, Sir Francis Molyneux Ommanney, was for some years M.P. for Barnstaple. A third brother was Admiral Henry Ommanney. Sir F. M. Ommanney died in 1840, leaving (with other issue) two sons, the present Vice-Admiral Erasmus Ommanney and Maniton Collingwood Ommanney, Esq., of the Bengal Civil Service and Judicial Commissioner of Oude. The latter, with his wife and two daughters, was shut up in Lucknow by the rebels. Sitting in his room, soon after the commencement of the siege, with Sergeant-Major Watson, he was killed by a cannon ball which struck him on the head. The sergeant-major died almost immediately, although it did not appear that the ball had touched him. The wife and daughters were rescued by Lord Clyde. (See Rees' *Personal Narrative*.) Mr. E. S. Ommanney's eldest son, the present General Ommanney, was born in this house, as was also another son, Lieut.-Colonel Francis Maxwell Montagu Ommanney of the Royal Artillery, who married his cousin, Harriot Ellen, daughter of J. M. Lacon, Esq.; and another son, Lieut. George Willes Ommanney, who died of cholera in 1846 at Neuktul, on his march to Poonah. Mrs. Ommanney, their mother, died at Southsea in 1868, aged 79, from the effects of an accident. This family bore per pale *arg.* and *sa.*, three chev. betw. as many cinquefoils counterchanged; and for a crest, a cubit arm erect per pale *arg.* and *sa.*, cuff of the first, the hand holding a battle axe on bend sinister *ppr.* There is a pedigree of Ommanney dating from the 16th century in the possession of Mr. Francis Ommanney.



*Ommanney.*





road), aged 40, and was buried in Loddon church. It was during Mr. Samuel Palmer's occupation of this house, that in 1837, principally through his instrumentality, Mr. William Wilshere of Hitchin in Hertfordshire was induced to offer himself as a candidate for the representation of the borough in the place of Col. Anson, who had secured a seat for South Staffordshire. Mr. Wilshere was returned with Mr. Rumbold after a close contest; but a petition having been presented a compromise took place, and Mr. Wilshere gave up his seat. It was expected that Mr. Thomas Baring, who had been defeated at the previous election, would now be returned without opposition; but some of Mr. Wilshere's supporters put him again in nomination, and he was re-elected by a majority of thirty-three votes. As this was considered contrary to the honorable understanding between the parties, the question was referred to the Marquis of Tavistock and Mr. O. B. Greville who decided that, if required by Mr. Baring, it was incumbent on Mr. Wilshere to resign his seat, and that he was not at liberty to oppose Mr. Baring at any future election; but Mr. Baring did not call upon him to do so, and Mr. Wilshere retained his seat until 1841, when after a contest he was again returned. At the next general election in 1847, Mr. Wilshere declined to offer himself, and never afterwards entered the House of Commons. During his visits to Yarmouth, Mr. Wilshere was frequently a guest at the above-mentioned house. He died at Paris in 1867.

*Row, No. 62, from the Quay to Howard Street.* At the north-west corner is an old house with a squared and smooth cut-flint front, having stone dressings to the windows. It has but one story, with dormer windows in the roof, and presents a good specimen of a style prevalent in the latter part of the 17th century. The rooms are low and panelled with wainscot, which in the hall and dining room retains its rich dark hue uncontaminated by paint. The hall door is still adorned by the ponderous brass knocker common at the period when this house was erected, but now rarely to be found.\* This house extended over the

\* In cases of sickness it had to be muffled into silence; and especially when the mistress was in travail. In Holland an accouchment was announced by fixing on such a knocker a little pellet of silk (*klopper*), which when red denoted a boy, and when white a girl.

row and also occupied the space between it and the Star Hotel, the front being of the same character throughout. The whole of this site, with a previous house thereon, was the property of Henry Church, who served the office of bailiff in 1670, and died in 1676. There is an epitaph to his memory preserved by Le Neve, in which he is styled *senator*, but this must be taken in a local sense, as he was not in Parliament. He left an only son, Henry Church, who died s.p., and ultimately the five daughters of his sister, Mrs. Mary Mew, became his co-heirs, and by them this property was sold to Anthony Ellys, Esq., by whom the present house was probably erected, as his initials with the date 1694 may still be seen on a leaden water spout. He was bailiff in 1699 and mayor in 1708, and died in 1709, aged 75.\* This family of ELLYS was quite distinct from that of Ellis mentioned *ante* p. 105. Anthony Ellys was descended from Thomas Ellys, who, by Mary his wife, had a son, Thomas Ellys of Somerleyton in Suffolk, who died in 1646, and was buried at Ashby, and who, by Sarah his wife, had issue six sons. Thomas, the eldest, resided at Lound in Suffolk. He married a Colville, and had issue. John, the second son, settled at Frostenden in Suffolk. He married Mary, daughter of one Barré of Syleham, attorney of the Court of Wards, and by her had a son, Sir John Ellis, M.D., Master of Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, Vice-Chancellor of that University, commonly called the *Devil of Keys*.† Sir John had a brother,

\* The following inscription was on his gravestone:—"Exuvias: Anthony Ellys, "Armigeri: Desiderium domisum sui: Respicientes: hic humo mandaverunt: "superstitis: Vicesimo nono die: Octobris: Anno salutis: 1709: æt. suæ 76."

† Queen Anne being at Newmarket in 1705, Dr. Ellys, as vice-chancellor, attended by the principal members of the university "in their formalities," waited upon her majesty; and was introduced by the Duke of Somerset, then chancellor. The doctor made a speech, full of expression of duty to her majesty and zeal for her government, to which the queen gave a gracious answer. The deputation then kissed hands, and the doctor solicited her majesty to honor the university with her presence at dinner, which invitation she was pleased to accept. The doctor and the other members of the deputation then waited upon the Prince of Hanover, and paid their compliments in a similar manner to his royal highness (afterwards King George II.); and after being entertained at dinner by the officers of the Board of Green Cloth, returned to the university "extremely well pleased." Her majesty dined in the Hall at Trinity College, and it was there that she conferred the honor of knighthood upon the vice-chancellor. On Michaelmas day in the same year,

Thomas Ellys, who settled in Yarmouth, where he married Katherine, daughter of John Fuller.\* Another brother was the Anthony Ellys above named. They are both mentioned by Dean Davies, who says "28th Dec., 1689. In the afternoon I visited Mr. Thomas Ellys; and "thence coming home I waited upon Mrs. Mary and Mrs. Hannah Ellys "to their brother Anthony's, where we supped and spent the evening "at cards." Anthony Ellys held lands copyhold of the manor of Burgh Castle, which were devised by his son to the daughter of the latter, Hannah, who married William Copping of Lowestoft. This family of



Ellys bore for their arms *arg.*, a mermaid *gu.*, with hair comb and mirror *or.*; and for a crest, a mermaid as before.† The first-named Anthony Ellys left a son, Anthony Ellys, who was mayor in 1705 and again in 1719. He is probably the "Justice Ellys" mentioned by Warburton as among the "men of note in Yarmouth."‡ He died in 1736, leaving a son,

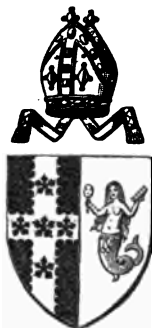
when Sir John Ellys went to swear in the Mayor of Cambridge, he claimed precedency in the joint seat at the upper end of the guildhall. This the mayor refused to concede, whereupon Sir John obtained an university grace discommuning his worship; the result being that the mayor had to apologize to the vice-chancellor, and to promise never to be guilty of the like offence, but "to give him precedence in all places whatsoever as of right he ought to have," upon which the sentence of discommuning was recalled. Cooper's *Annals*, v. 4, p. 70.

\* This Thomas Ellys had a house on the South Quay. Dean Davies says—"28 Dec., 1690. I went to church, and on my return I called at the stationer's and "bought *The Whole Duty of Man* to bestow on Mrs. Mary Ellys; the *Advice to a Daughter* for her sister Hannah; and the *Countess of Morton's Devotions* for Mrs. "Patty; all which cost me £1 6s." "Feb. 6, 1690. After dinner meeting Mr. Thomas "Ellys, I went with him to his house, and there sat some time with Mrs. Fuller." He left three daughters, Elizabeth married to William Pacey (merchant), Ruth married to James Ward, and Mary.

† A family of Ellis bore the extraordinary crest of a nude woman erect and regardant with hair dishevelled, all *proper*. It is surmised that this crest may have been adopted at a very early period in admiration of an antique gem with the figure of Venus engraved thereon. As early as the reign of Edward III. it was the crest of the Ellises of Kiddall, a branch of which family is believed to have settled in Norfolk about the year 1300.

‡ He voted at the Norfolk Election in 1714 in favor of Astley and De Grey.

Dr. ANTHONY ELLYS, Bishop of St. David's, who was a native of Yarmouth. This prelate graduated at Clare Hall, Cambridge, and having taken holy orders was, through the influence of his father, appointed one of the Ministers of St. George's Chapel (for then there were two) in 1720. This preferment he resigned in the following year, "by reason of the provision made for him by the lord chancellor," which was the Rectory of St. Olave, Old Jewry, London. He became a Prebendary of Gloucester, and in 1752 was made Bishop of St. David's. He also held the Vicarage of Great Marlow in Buckinghamshire, and was Chaplain to Lord Chancellor Macclesfield. He died at Gloucester in 1761, and was buried in the cathedral of that city, where there is a tomb to his memory bearing his shield of arms. He was considered a man of fine parts, with extensive knowledge and sound judgment, and endowed with a most christian temper. By Anne his wife, daughter of Sir Stephen Anderson, Bart., he left an only child, Elizabeth Frances Ellys. The bishop sold the above house to Nathaniel



Symonds, Esq., a member of a family who at that time held large possessions in Yarmouth and its neighbourhood. He probably erected the lofty iron entrance gate; as it is still surmounted by the Symonds' crest, a dolphin naiant embowed devouring a fish.

The Yarmouth family of SYMONDS descended from an ancient one of that name long resident in Norfolk, whose pedigree is to be found in the visitations of the county deposited in the College of Arms brought down to 1664, from which period the descent of the Yarmouth family is fully established.\* John Symonds of Great Yarmouth who died in

\* The shield anciently borne by this family was per fess *sa.* and *arg.*, a pale and six trefoils alipped and countercharged, but was afterwards changed to *az.*, three trefoils alipped *or.*; and again changed to *sa.*, a dolphin naiant emb. devouring a fish *ppr.*; and these coats have since been constantly borne quarterly, sometimes the ancient coat in the first quarter, sometimes the dolphin. These arms appeared on numerous hatchments in Ormesby Church, and also upon the sepulchral slabs of the family in St. Nicholas' Church. Their crest has been mentioned, and in allusion to it their motto was *Rectus in curvo.*

1657, aged 59,\* married, first, Mary, daughter of Robert Stevenson (bailiff in 1621), and by her had an only surviving son, James Symonds,† who married Elizabeth, daughter of Daniel Sheppard of Saxmundham.‡ He purchased of Sir James Calthorpe, Sir Algernon May, and Sir William Paston, lands at Ormesby, and enlarged the old mansion there which became his country seat. He died in 1687, leaving a son, Jonathan Symonds of Ormesby, who married Mary, daughter of William Cotton, Esq., third son of Sir Thomas Cotton, Bart., of Connington in Huntingdonshire, eldest son of Sir Robert Cotton, Bart., the collector of the Cottonian Library and founder of the British Museum. He died in 1726, aged 75, leaving an only son, Cotton Symonds, Esq., who married Elizabeth Cotman. He resided at Ormesby, and rebuilt the south front of the hall there. In 1734 he offered himself as a candidate for parliamentary honors in opposition to the Walpole and Townshend interest, but suffered a signal defeat; the numbers being for Townshend 500, Walpole 422, Symonds 113. He filled the office of High Sheriff of Norfolk in 1754, and died in 1761, aged 57 s.p., having devised his estates to his relative, the above-named Nathaniel Symonds, son of Nathaniel Symonds of Browston hall, Suffolk, who died in 1727, aged 33. The latter was the son of Nathaniel Symonds of Yarmouth, who filled the office of bailiff in 1682 and 1693, was a justice of the peace named in the charter of Queen Anne, and died in 1708. The first named Nathaniel Symonds married Anne, only child and heir of Thomas Symonds, Esq., of Browston hall. He filled the office of mayor in 1777, and died in 1785, aged 62,§

\* He was an alderman and one of the elders; and contributed both money and plate for the use of parliament on the breaking out of the civil war. A house belonging to him at the south end of the town was made a store for powder, he being then bailiff; and in 1648 he signed the Solemn League and Covenant, and was one of those sent to Col. Scrope to entreat him to forbear putting a garrison in the town. His hatchment still remains in the Parish Church.

† He signed the address to Richard Cromwell, and was bailiff in 1660.

‡ The Sheppards were a numerous and highly-respectable family in Suffolk, who bore *ss.*, a fess betw. three talbots pass. *arg.*

§ By his will he left a legacy to his old coachman, "Jonathan;" and directed that his coach horses should be well cared for as long as they lived; and they

leaving an only child, James Symonds, Esq.,\* of Ormesby and Great Yarmouth, who was a magistrate for Norfolk. He married Hannah, daughter of John Spurgeon, Esq., town clerk; and died at Ormesby in 1821, aged 65, leaving two sons, the Rev. James Symonds who married Janet, sole child of John Fish, Esq., of Great Yarmouth, and died in 1846; and Charles Symonds, Esq., who, for his first wife, married Mary Eaton,† sole child of the Rev. Eli Morgan Price, D.D., Vicar of Runham and Griston in Norfolk. With them this family which had been so numerous and wealthy became extinct in Yarmouth; and what remained of their once large possessions was dispersed.

John Symonds, with whom the above pedigree commences, married, for his second wife, Mary, daughter of Daniel Sheppard of Saxmundham (who died in 1691, aged 77), and by her had an only child, NATHANIEL SYMONDS. He graduated at Emmanuel college, Cambridge, the chapel of which he "repaired and beautified," and enriched the library with a collection of medals. Inheriting a considerable patrimony, he bethought him of the saying of the wise men of Syrack that it was "better to give alms than to lay up gold." Among his good deeds may be mentioned "poor debtors discharged from vile confinement, a gaol delivery purchased to the unspeakable joy of many distressed persons—widows annually supplied with sums to enable them to subsist during the tedious months of winter. Charity children clothed and educated—

attained (one in particular—a fine black horse, with docked tail and ears, as the fashion then was) to a great age. Old Jonathan, straight as a dart, might be seen for many years, dressed in his long coachman's coat, with large flapped-side pockets, a wig and three-cornered cocked hat, looking after his charge.

\* There is an engraved portrait of him.

† She died at Runham in 1827, where Mr. Charles Symonds had an estate, which had previously been the property of John Worship, Esq., and of his son, John Lucas Worship, Esq., and which estate after the death of Mr. Symonds was purchased by the late Thomas Brightwen, Esq., who greatly improved the hall, where he occasionally resided, and restored the Parish church. Mr. Charles Symonds was a Deputy-Lieutenant for Norfolk. Riding one day on the box of a carriage which gave way, he was precipitated to the ground, by which accident his leg was broken and he became lame for life. By his first marriage he had a son, Cotton Symonds, who in 1840 was presented with a gold medal by Louis Philippe, King of the French, for saving, when in command of the *Plumpstead* the lives of seven men belonging to the *Tropigne* of Bordeaux.

"Lowestoft vicarage augmented—a celebrated hospital in Germany "relieved by large remittances, and the propogation of christian knowledge in the east encouraged." By his will he gave £200 towards erecting a place of public worship—£40 a year for ninety-nine years to the widows of poor clergymen of the diocese—£40 a year for the same term to four daughters of aldermen or common-councilmen of Great Yarmouth, they being 40 years of age and single\*—£5 a year for fifteen years to be laid out in the purchase of religious books for the poor in the the parishes of Belton, Ormesby, Burgh, Lowestoft, and Bedingham. He died in 1720, aged 72 s.p., and was buried in the north aisle of the Parish church, and a funeral sermon from Matthew xxv., v. 34, 35, and 36, was preached by the Rev. Barry Love, and published.

Before this house passed from the Symonds' family, it was for some years occupied by the Rev. William Lucas, who was the only child of Gibson Lucas, Esq. (of whom hereafter), by his second wife, Charlotte, daughter of Bartholomew Nelson of Lynn, merchant. He was Rector of Flegg Burgh and Billockby, and married Charlotte, only daughter of John Fisher, Esq., and died in 1859, aged 74, leaving two sons, one of whom only survives, and two daughters.

The next possessor of the above-mentioned house was BENJAMIN Dowson, Esq. He was the eldest son of Benjamin Utting Dowson of Geldestone, Norfolk, corn merchant, who died in 1843, aged 79. The latter was the son of Benjamin Dowson of Great Yarmouth, and of Mutford, Suffolk, who died in 1799, and who was the eldest son and heir-at-law of Benjamin Gibson Dowson of Great Yarmouth. Mr. Benjamin Dowson for many years conducted an extensive business as a maltster for the London brewers (Messrs. Combe, Delafield, and Co.), and as a corn merchant with much ability and success. Benevolent, liberal, and charitable, he was ever ready to assist in any good work. He was Chairman of the Victoria Building Company, and took great interest in that undertaking; and was a generous friend to the Sailors' Home and the Hospital. He was a Deputy Lieutenant for the County of Norfolk. He died here in 1865, aged 77, and was buried in the churchyard at Burgh Castle. There is a portrait of him by Eddis.

\* "Symonds' Old Maids" as they were termed in the corporation books.



During the many years Mr. Rumbold represented the borough in parliament, he frequently, especially during contested elections, resided in this house as the guest of Mr. Dowson. Charles Edmund Rumbold, the second son of Sir Thomas Rumbold, Bart.,\* was seated at Preston Candover in Hampshire. He was educated at Trinity college, Cambridge, where he took his degree of M.A. in 1814. He early evinced a taste for literature; and he was not only a ripe scholar, but master of several modern languages. He attained his majority at the time the French were retreating from Moscow, and he at once made his way to the rear of the Russian army, and continued to follow them during the whole of the ensuing campaign. He witnessed the battles of Lutzen and Bautzen, and arrived in Leipzig a few hours after the capture of that city by the allies. Having seen enough of the horrors of war he returned to England and landed at Great Yarmouth. In after life he was accustomed to give graphic and most interesting descriptions to his friends of the terrible scenes he had witnessed on the fields of battle. He stood for Yarmouth in 1818 as a whig and gained his election. In 1820 he was again returned after a contest; again in 1826; again in 1830; again in 1831; and again in 1832, after the passing of the Reform Bill; each election having been contested. In 1834 he was for the first time defeated. In 1837 he regained his seat after a severe contest; and was re-elected in 1841, also after a contest. In 1847 he was defeated, but his opponents were unseated. At the next election Mr. Rumbold was again returned, and in 1852 he was for the ninth time elected, having

\* Sir Thomas Rumbold, the father of the member, was born in 1736 at Laytonstone in Essex, and was descended from a family anciently of that county, and in later times settled at Farnham. At an early age he was appointed a writer at Fort St. George; but for a time changed the civil for the military service. He was at the siege of Trichinopoly and at the re-taking of Calcutta in 1756, and acted as aide-de-camp to Lord Clive at the battle of Plassey. Returning to the civil service he became a member of the council for Bengal, and succeeded Warren Hastings as Governor General in 1773. He returned to England in 1780, and immediately became the object of much political animosity. A bill of pains and penalties was brought in against him; but the charges were disproved and the bill was dropped. Sir Thomas Rumbold remained in parliament until his death. He married Johanna, youngest daughter of Dr. Law, Bishop of Carlisle. A vindication of his character and administration, written by his daughter, Elizabeth Anne Rumbold, was published in 1868.



*Homfray.*



for his colleague Sir E. H. K. Lacon, Bart.; and he continued to represent the borough until 1857, when after a service of nearly forty years he finally retired from public life. He died the same year, aged 68.

The house at the south-west corner of Row, No. 62, already mentioned as having formed part of the house on the other side, was for many years in the occupation of the Rev. John Homfray, who married Hetty, only daughter of James Symonds, Esq. of Ormesby.\*

The above-mentioned house was subsequently occupied by Hannah, the widow of John Farr (p. 221), who died here in 1839, aged 80. The Farris of Beccles and North Cove, Suffolk, bore *gu.*, a saltier *or.* betw.

\* The name of Homfray is derived from the words *Homme vrai*. This family bore *gu.*, a cross bottomy *erm.*; and for a crest an otter *ppr.* wounded in the shoulder, with the motto *L'homme vrai aime son pais*. The Rev. John Homfray was the only child of Mr. John Homfray of Derby, who died in 1804, by Sarah his wife, daughter of Mr. John Parr of the same place. He graduated at Merton college, Oxford, and having settled in Yarmouth became curate to the Rev. Richard Turner, then Minister of the Parish. In 1821 he was appointed by the corporation one of the Ministers of St. George's chapel, which preferment he vacated in 1839 on being instituted to the Rectory of Sutton in Norfolk on the presentation of the Earl of Abergavenny. He died at the rectory house there, which he had just completed, in 1842, aged 74, and his widow died ten days afterwards in London, aged 65. He was a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, and took great interest in heraldic and genealogical pursuits, in which he was assisted by his friend, Mr. Townsend, rouge dragon, who was occasionally a guest at the above house. Mr. Homfray issued a prospectus for publishing a new edition of Browne Willis's *History of Mitred Abbots*, but went no further. He was an enthusiastic lover of pictures and contrived to obtain a considerable collection, and also to form a library containing many valuable topographical and heraldic works, the whole of which were sold by auction in 1827. His love of art was, however, so strong that he soon began another collection. He had three sons. (1) Thomas Parr, who died *vixit patrie*; (2) Henry Revell of Stradshall park, Suffolk, who died in 1870; and (3) Samuel Francis Wingfield Clarke, Rector of Bintry in Norfolk, who died in 1871; and several daughters. A portrait of Miss Juliana Homfray was painted by Lane, and engraved in mezzotinto by Samuel Cousins, at the expense of the Rev. Fred. H. Turnor Barnwell, who wrote a long epitaph to her memory in latin, which he placed in Trinity church, Marylebone. There are also portraits of Miss Catharine Mary Homfray and Miss Janet Homfray, engraved by Harvey from portraits by Lane. The Homfrays were distinguished amongst the soldiers of the cross, and were eminent in the early wars of the Plantagenet kings. The annexed engraving of John Homfray, a gallant knight in 1390, is from a painting in the British Museum. The horse is trapped with the ancient arms of Homfray—*ss.*, four pales *erm.*

four fleur de lis of the second. John Farr of Beccles, who died in 1723, was the grandfather of John Farr who purchased the North Cove estate, and died in 1795, aged 72.\* John Farr, his son, a Magistrate and Deputy-Lieutenant for Suffolk, died in 1824, aged 67, leaving the widow above named;† and an elder son, the late John Lee Farr, Esq.

Row No. 63, from *Howard Street* to the *Market Place*, long known as *Post-Office Row*, because a house on the north side, towards the east end (the property of the Seaman family), was used as a post office for many years previous to the removal of the business to the quay in 1840. The rise and progress of the Post is very curious. During the middle ages messengers were attached to the royal household, whose special duty it was to convey letters to different parts of the kingdom, in the same way as "queen's messengers" now convey government dispatches abroad. Private persons made interest to have their letters included in the royal bag; and powerful nobles had also their special messengers, and took charge of the letters of their friends and dependants. At first the horses of the king or his nobles were alone employed to make the required journey; but Edward I. found it more convenient to hire horses placed at fixed *posts* along the route to be traversed, and hence the name. After a while it was found more expeditious to change the rider, who at some appointed distance should deliver his letters to the next *post-man*. Edward IV. established posts twenty miles apart along the great north road. The letters of the privy council addressed to the Bailiffs of Yarmouth during Kett's rebellion were marked on the outside—*Haste! post, haste!—haste for your life!—haste!* The conveyance of letters by the royal posts was at first a favor acknowledged by a gratuity, but when correspondence increased a fixed rate of payment was made, and then the privilege became a right. In

\* Lorina his wife, whose maiden name was Fuller, predeceased him in 1794, aged 66. She gave her name to her grandson mentioned at p. 269.

† Her maiden name was Lee; the arms borne by which family were *az.*, two bars *or.*, over all a bend counter compone *gu.* and *ermouine*; and for a crest a griffin's head erased *arg.*, the neck charged with three hurts. Thomas Farr of Beccles died in 1850, aged 87; surviving his wife, Georgiana, youngest daughter of Sir Thomas Gooch of Benacre, who died in 1828, aged 55. All buried at North Cove.





1556 Richard Mynsterley, "one of the messengers of the Queen's Majesty's Chamber," rode from London to Yarmouth with letters for Sir Thomas Woodhouse; and in 1563 Richard Richman "an ordinary messenger of the Queen's Majesty's Chamber" was entrusted with numerous letters to be delivered at different parts of Norfolk, including one to John Millicent,\* customer of the Port of Yarmouth. Private persons were then found willing to compete with government for the conveyance of letters, to prevent which a proclamation was issued in 1591 directing merchants not to send their letters by "disavowed persons," but up to the time of Charles I. the conveyance of letters was not attended with any profit to the state. In 1631 the post master at Ipswich received twenty shillings a quarter for forwarding the Yarmouth letters to London, paid out of the corporation purse; which allowance was however reduced in 1633 one half. When political events in 1644 had created a desire for more frequent communication with London, an arrangement was made under which letters to and from Yarmouth and London were to be conveyed weekly; but "special messengers" were occasionally employed when the matter was urgent; and in any case "post" horses were used. In 1648 the town being alarmed by a demonstration made by the royalist fleet, Richard Bigbell was sent to London at an expense of £3 12s. 6d., with letters for the council of state; and there are many entries in the corporation books of the payment of special messengers for the conveyance of letters.† Jason Grover, according to his own account in a petition to Secretary Nicholas, was the first to establish "posts" between London and Yarmouth in 1620,

\* He was one of the deputation who in 1560 waited upon Sir Thomas Wodehouse to request the Mayor of Norwich and his brethren and "the worshipful of the county" to extend their benevolence towards the expense of forming a new haven. In 1549 George Millicent was sent up to the king in council to report the proceedings of the rebels under Kett. Swinden p.p. 414, 937.

† In 1659 John Hill published a book entitled *A Pennypost*, which asserted the right of every Englishman to carry other men's letters; but nearly two hundred years elapsed before Sir Rowland Hill established the penny post (1840). At a public meeting held in the previous year at the Town hall, petitions to both houses of parliament were adopted in favor of the measure. Lord John Russell, by his secretary, Mr. Phillips, acknowledged the receipt of a petition to the queen signed by "a numerous body of females of Great Yarmouth, connected with the seamen sailing from that port."



and enjoyed the place of post master (which included Ipswich and Norwich) for forty years (though confined by the "usurping powers" to Ipswich); and in 1660 he complains that he was required to send the mail three times a week instead of twice.\* For some years after the restoration the rate of travelling by the mail was only three and a half miles per hour; and even this was subject to frequent stoppages and long delays. In July, 1666, the mail occupied sixty-six hours in the journey to London; and upon another occasion it left Yarmouth on Friday at ten o'clock p.m., and did not reach London till Sunday at four o'clock p.m., when, says the report of Secretary Williamson, "it might easily have come sixteen hours earlier;" and official patience being exhausted a warrant was issued "to bring up the Yarmouth post master in safe custody." Among the *State Papers* there is a letter from Thomas Greenwood of Yarmouth to Thomas Raymond at Westminster, dated 17 March, 1661, in which he complains of the frequent miscarriage of letters, refers to private money affairs, and mentions the damage sustained on the coast during a late storm.

The first post office in Yarmouth was in Row No. 107; and in 1696 a great effort was made to expedite the transmission of letters, as will be seen by the following letter addressed by the Members for the Borough to the bailiffs.

"GENTLEMEN,

"November y<sup>e</sup> 10th, 1696.

"This night orders will be sent to the post office at Yarmouth from the great one here, that the mail shall not goe away till 10 of the clock in the morning at soonest, and to stay till 11 if occasion require; w<sup>h</sup> wee suppose is an effectual and satisfactory answer to what is desired. Y<sup>e</sup> other comands shall not slip the memory of

"Y<sup>e</sup> faithful and humble Sev<sup>ts</sup>,

"GEORGE ENGLAND

"SAMUEL FULLER."

\* *State Papers*, p. 97. In 1660 Katharine de Luke, widow, petitioned the Crown for a lease of waste ground between Caister rails and the pier head, on the ground that she had served Charles I. in carrying letters when none else durst hazard it, for which she had been sent to bridewell, whipped every other day, burnt with lighted matches, and cruelly tormented, but would not betray her trust. *S. P.*, p. 292.

The post having become a means for the transmission of money, the cupidity of "highway-men" was excited, especially when coaches were substituted for saddle bags, and larger amounts in coin were conveyed. In 1698 the post from Yarmouth was robbed near London of about £500 worth of exchequer bills, and at subsequent periods it was frequently stopped and robbed; nor were the letters transmitted by it considered safe from inspection especially in times of political excitement. In 1703 the "Independent church" at Yarmouth, desiring to write a letter to their friends at Wrentham, sent their communication by a messenger to "Laystoft and soe forward, not thinking it safe to goe by post."\* In 1741 the postmaster general, "for the benefit of trade, thought "proper to put in practice a scheme for dispatching letters to Yarmouth "daily (Sundays excepted), instead of three times a week as theretofore;" but the post still travelled in peril, for in 1749 "the Yarmouth bag was taken away by two footpads between Ingatestone and Rumford." When coaches were established "the guard" was in fact what the name implied, and he always went armed and had frequently occasion to defend himself and the bags under his charge.† In the early part

\* Little reliance was then placed upon the security of the post. Mr. Thornhaugh Gurdon, writing from Norwich to his brother, the Rev. Brampton Gurdon, at Cambridge in 1711, says "Last Thursday I had two letters from Col. Wodehouse of the same date, *for fear one might miscarry*, and both brought the same news, viz., that Sir John Wodehouse and he had prevailed on the Lords of the Treasury to promise me the "General Receiver's place." He obtained this lucrative office for the county of Norfolk, but was deprived of it, and also struck out of the commission of the peace, on the accession of the House of Hanover. The Gurdons take their name from Gourdon near Cahors in France, and came into England with the Conqueror. Robert Gurdon (who died in 1577), son of John Gurdon of Dedham in Essex, purchased the Assington estate in Suffolk of Sir Miles Corbet, Knt. John Gurdon, his grandson, represented Suffolk in the Long Parliament, and was named one of the committee appointed to sit in judgment on Charles I., but did not attend the trial. Assington hall is still possessed by his descendants. The Gurdons acquired the Letton estate, in Norfolk, by the marriage of John Gurdon (High Sheriff in 1685), son of Robert Gurdon of Assington, with Amy, daughter and heir of William Brampton, Esq., who was of an ancient Norfolk family. The Gurdons bear *sa.*, three leopards' faces jessant fleurs de lys *or.* The name of Thornhaugh was acquired by the marriage of Brampton Gurdon, Esq., with Elizabeth, daughter of Francis Thornhaugh of Fenton in Nottinghamshire.

† In 1775 the Norwich coach was attacked in Epping Forest by seven highway-men, three of whom the guard shot dead on the spot; but his ammunition failing he

of the present century the mail from London did not arrive until late in the afternoon, the up mail having left the *Duke's Head* at 2 o'clock p.m. In 1807 complaints were made to the postmaster general that letters were seldom ready for delivery till near four o'clock p.m., while owing to some dispute among the coach proprietors the time for posting letters was limited to 12.30 instead of 2 p.m. as theretofore. Some improvement afterwards took place, but for many years letters could either not be answered the same day or merchants and traders had but scant time in which to do it, the in and out coaches, especially in winter, often passing each other on the road. In 1819 the Yarmouth bag began to be "conveyed by a patent mail coach, which," the announcement said, "will travel so much quicker than the usual mode of conveyance as to enable the inhabitants to answer letters one day earlier than heretofore. The mail leaving London at the usual time will arrive in Yarmouth at 11h. 40m. the next morning, and depart at 3 in the afternoon. Yarmouth being distant 124 miles from London, will be the only town in the kingdom at so great a distance enjoying such an accommodation." At that time, and for many years afterwards, the letter carrier for the southern half of the town was an old woman named Ann Carter, who, fortified by a glass of gin and with "spectacles on nose," slowly trudged from door to door delivering her letters, and depositing in a capacious pocket in front of her white apron the exorbitant rates then demanded; postage stamps being unknown.\*

The office of postmaster was for many years held by the Seaman family. Samuel Seaman died in 1783, aged 76. Thomas Seaman, his son, married a daughter of John Aldham, solicitor, Norwich, and dying in 1793, was succeeded by his son, Thomas Seaman, who married Deborah, daughter of Samuel Lewis, C. C., and died in 1823, aged 65. The duties of the office were afterwards discharged by his daughters until the removal of the business to the quay.

himself was shot and the bags stolen. Guards were subject also to other perils, for in 1811 J. King, guard to the Yarmouth mail coach, was taken before the lord mayor upon the singular charge of having purchased guineas at 26s. 6d. each; the giving more than 21s. being then illegal, and the offence punishable by fine and imprisonment. This was to prevent the exportation of gold.

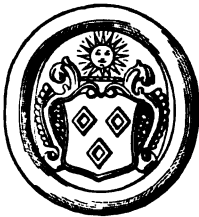
\* The postage from Yarmouth to Norwich was then 6d., to London 10d., to

At the west end of Row No. 63, at the back of the house and liquor shop, fronting Howard street, rebuilt by Mr. Joseph Tomlinson, who died in 1867, aged 72, there was a house fronting east towards a large garden, long the residence of Robert Woolmer, solicitor, who died unmarried in 1807, aged 96, leaving a considerable fortune to the Cory family, to whom he was not related.\* It was afterwards occupied by Mrs. Ruxby, widow of Thomas Ruxby, wine merchant, who died in 1796. In 1851 some malthouses were erected here; and in digging the foundation there was found at the depth of six feet a portion of a very massive wall running north and south, with some remains of stone and wood work and some fragments of pottery. A drawing was made on the spot by Winter, and the dimensions ascertained.

At the north-east corner of this row is a house and shop which in the early part of the last century was the property of William Carpenter of Aldeby, Norfolk. After having been subsequently for many years in the Seaman family, these premises were purchased in 1808 by William Absolon, who died in 1815, aged 64. About the year 1790 he established

Edinburgh 1s. 2d. The above "messenger of weal and woe" died in the workhouse in 1835, aged 77, having performed the duties of her office until a few years of her decease.

\* He was fourth in descent from Wm. Woolmer of Earsham, who died in 1664; and was the only son of Robert Woolmer, by Mary his wife, daughter of R. Ward of Bixley. Robert Woolmer of Yarmouth appears by an old seal, remaining in the possession of Mr. S. B. Cory, to have borne on a field three mascles or lozenges voided; and for a crest, the sun in splendour. Mr. Dawson Turner used to relate that he once heard Woolmer declare that he had asked Mrs. Bendish, Cromwell's granddaughter, whether she had ever been at court; to which her reply was "Never, since I was waited upon there on the knee!" This might be true: as Woolmer was 27 years of age at the death of Mrs. Bendish.



After the breaking out of the French revolution, when severe enactments were passed to prevent the spread of sedition, "old cocky Woolmer," as he was called, used to console himself by saying "Well, they can't hang a man for *thinking*." A family of this name flourished at Stratford-on-Avon in the 18th century, and bore *gu.*, a chev. betw. three escallop shells *arg.*; and for a crest, a dexter arm grasping a sword point upwards, environed by a serpent *ppr.* Thomas Woolmer, who was for fifty years Town Clerk of Stratford, placed these quaint professional lines on the monument to his wife, who died in 1704:—

"Mirrour of curtesie—adieu!

"'Till the last trump thy life renew;

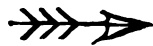
"Belov'd by all,—by all bewail'd;—

"O that our tears might thee have bail'd."

a pottery in Yarmouth, at a place long called "The Ovens." The ware manufactured resembled the queen's ware of Wedgewood, and some specimens may be found in the cabinets of collectors exhibiting flowers and fruit on a cream-coloured ground.\* The above-mentioned premises were afterwards for many years occupied by Mr. Bond, druggist.†

The adjoining house to the north (No. 184) was in the early part of the last century called the *Star*; and was occupied in 1808 by William Present, as a butcher's shop. At the south-east corner of the same row

is a shop now occupied by Mr. George Nall,‡ bookseller and printer, where early in the present century Mr. Charles Sloman established and carried on the same business. The latter was an excellent typographer, and was employed by Mr. Dawson Turner for the production of most of his works. Having disposed of his business in 1857, he retired to Southtown, where he died in 1866, aged 82.§



\* See Marryatt's *History of Pottery and Porcelain*, p. 435. He used this mark with "Absolon, Yarmo.," below it.

† Here died in 1868 Millison, relict of Barnabas Bond of Pulham St. Mary, Norfolk, aged 91. Charles George Cock, one of the sequestrators in the time of the commonwealth, and who was Recorder of Yarmouth from 1655 to 1660, married Ann, daughter and heir of Richard Bond. Cock bore quarterly *gu.* and *arg.*; and Bond *arg.* on a chev. three bezants. See *P. C.*, p. 344.

‡ The name was not unknown in Yarmouth. John Nall was admitted a freeman in 1682. Meddowe Nall (son of Meddowe Nall) voted at a Yarmouth election in 1754, and William Nall in 1777; after which time the name disappears from the borough roll.

§ Mr. W. P. Sloman, of the house of Schröder and Sloman, Crutched Friars, died at Yarmouth in 1811. A member of this family also established a large commercial house at Hamburg, where he died a few years ago.

The house adjoining to the south (No. 181) was long known as the *Shakspear Tavern*, the license for which has been removed, and it is now occupied as a shop. Early in the last century, and for many years afterwards, it was known as the *Scotch Arms*.

The next house to the south (No. 180) was long occupied by William Alexander, bookseller, who died in 1858, aged 95.\* This house was rebuilt for Mr. W. D. Burton, bookseller and printer; but the halo which played round the old and inconvenient shop departed from the new and spacious one, and the business was relinquished. The sites of all these houses, with the ground at their back extending a considerable way westward, were in 1672 purchased by Sir James Johnson, Knt., of the England family, having previously been the property of Joshua Smith and William Cosh (brewer). In 1730 Thomas Godfrey, wine cooper, purchased the *Scotch Arms*, and he was also possessed of the adjoining property to the south.

Row No. 63½ leads from *Howard Street* towards the *Market Place*, and is called *Turnpike Row*, probably from there having been at the end of it a pike to prevent the passage of carts.†

Row No. 64, from *King Street* to *Theatre Plain*, being the first row south of the *Market place*, to which we must now return. In 1713 a CHARITY SCHOOL was established "for teaching poor boys or poor girls "or poor children to read—and instructing them in the knowledge and "practice of the christian religion as professed and taught in the Church

\* He was a Unitarian in religion and a radical in politics. For forty years in succession he petitioned the House of Commons to abolish the punishment of death. He kept a diary which probably contains many matters of interest, if it be in existence. Ruth, his first wife, dying in 1827, aged 75, he married, secondly, his shopwoman, a most respectable person, long a favorite with the public under the name of "Betty." She died in 1866, aged 88; and they are both buried in the Rosary at Norwich. The rival booksellers were as unlike in personal appearance as they were in politics. Sloman was tall, thin, erect, and sedate as became the exponent of the church and tory party; while Alexander, who was short and rotund, with a large bald head, restless eyes and quick manner, represented the dissenting and liberal party. Both were good citizens.

† In 1663 Capt. Johnson, having as was alleged encroached upon the *Turnpike Row*, a committee of ten persons was appointed to view the premises and report thereon.

"of England; and such other things as are suitable to their condition "and capacity;" and in 1723 the corporation granted a piece of ground at the south-east corner of the Market place, described as "a piece of "waste ground near the main guard, between houses of John Dodgein, "the butcher, north, and a certain place called Bolt's corner, south," upon which the schoolrooms now standing were erected. In 1749 a deed of settlement was drawn up, the trustees being the Incumbent of the Parish and the Ministers of St. George's Chapel, with some of the then principal inhabitants. In 1785 the corporation granted an additional site to the north, upon which the master's house was erected. Two figures, in niches, on the front of this building were removed from the old vestry in St. Nicholas' Church, when the same was demolished in 1848. See *Vignette ante*. p. 165.

In 1678 the site of the houses now at the south end of the *Market Place*, and lying between *King Street* and the *Theatre Plain*, was open ground, and was in that year granted by the corporation to Mitchell Mew, a man of considerable property, whose name we shall again have occasion to mention. He in 1681 sold the ground to Roger Tompson, oatmeal maker, who in 1683 conveyed it to Robert Boulton (miller) and Benjamin Boulton (carpenter and millwright), at which time it is described as "waste ground lying on the Dene side," and abutting north upon "the Market place or waste ground of the Bailiffs, Aldermen, Burgesses, and Commonalty of the Town of Great Yarmouth," and which ground was then enclosed by a "fence of posts and bords." It appears by this deed that the street to the west was then called "*the King's Street*." Four houses were erected upon this ground, which in 1750 were conveyed to Thomas Woods, stationer, and passed into the possession of Thomas Leath, surgeon, by whom in 1781 the property was sold to John Scales, Philip Pully, Samuel Mason,\* and John Sims, who made great alterations and fitted up the houses as a bank, but soon afterwards the partnership was dissolved, and the banking business was carried on by Messrs. Mason and Woods, who were also corn merchants, and in

\* Mason had an estate at Belton and Bradwell, Suffolk (ultimately possessed by the Fowlers), which on his marriage with Mary, the daughter of James Clifton, was brought into settlement in 1756, John Cotman and Thomas Adkin being the trustees. She died in 1757, aged 30.

1783 they became bankrupts. In 1797 this property was purchased by Thomas Bateman, Esq., M.D., and in 1821 it was conveyed by him to his son, George Bateman, Esq., M.D., who had previously occupied the same.\* In 1859 the premises were conveyed to the Trustees of the Great Yarmouth Savings Bank, for the purposes of which institution the property has been adapted with a new front elevation. The houses adjoining to the west of the Savings Bank, and fronting north on the Market place and to the west on King street, were in 1729 in the possession of Charles Gray (bookseller) and John Boswell (butcher), the latter having married the widow of Benjamin Boulton. In 1797 the house fronting the Market place was in the occupation of William Taylor, surgeon, who afterwards resided on the west side of the Market place, as already mentioned, but eventually returned to this house where he died. The house fronting King street was at the commencement of the present century occupied by James Black, bookseller, printer, and stationer, who in 1805 sold the business to Mr. Pexall Forster of Ipswich, who had in 1793 married Miss Smith of Yarmouth. It was subsequently occupied by Mr. Keymer, already mentioned (*ante*. p. 275).† The ground south of Row No. 64 was first enclosed in

\* This name has already been mentioned (p. 126). It belonged to an old family at Norwich, many of whose members filled the office of bailiff in that city from an early period. They had an estate at Flixton in Suffolk. (*Add. M.S.* 5524). In 1665 the bailiffs received a letter from the king, in which, after lamenting the sickness in the town and the sufferings of the people, recommended them to dispense with such formalities as could not well be observed, and elect William Bateman and Robert Michelson as bailiffs for the ensuing year, which was done. Thomas Bateman, Esq., M.D., married a Cubitt of Honing. He held an estate at Ludham under lease from the Bishop of Norwich, the occupants of which see had been accustomed in former times to make the hall one of their country seats. He filled the office of mayor in 1819, and died in 1834. George Bateman, his eldest son, practised for many years as a surgeon at Yarmouth, and on retiring obtained the degree of M.D. He married Elizabeth, the eldest daughter of Mr. Ridge, surgeon, by whom he had an only child, a daughter, Louisa Eliza, who married Joseph Bright, Esq., but died shortly afterwards at Naples in 1850, *s.p.* Dr. George Bateman died at Leamington in 1857, aged 69. Charlotte, youngest daughter of Dr. Thomas Bateman, and widow of Nathan Gray, died at No. 55, North Quay, August 10th, 1870, aged 77, and was the last of this family in Yarmouth.

† He printed an edition of the Bible in 4to., a copy of which was in the Duke of Sussex's collection.



1678, was also granted to Mitchel Mew. The house at the north-west corner was erected by Mr. John Pritchard, surgeon, who died in 1850. The house to the south of this row was the property of Mary Buell, widow, who in 1761 devised it to her mother, Elizabeth Thompson, widow, whose heir-at-law, Richard Harley, joined in conveying the same to Robert Smith, who sold the house to George Thompson, merchant. In 1785 this house was conveyed to James Lucas Worship, Esq., who died in 1790. In 1808 the property was purchased by Press Turner, pastry cook, who immediately conveyed it to Pexall Forster, bookseller, who the next year became bankrupt.\* The house was then sold to Robert Marston of Martham, farmer; and was for many years afterwards known as a lodging house. In this vicinity was a stationer's shop sometime occupied by Mr. Fortunatus R. T. Crisp, who afterwards settled in London, where he became the proprietor and editor of the *Farmers' Journal* and the *Agricultural Magazine*, and died in 1869, aged 62.

Room No. 65 from *King Street* to *Theatre Plain*. At the south-west corner, now divided into two occupations, No. 7 and 8, there is a large house, formerly occupied by Mr. Dakin, brazier.† Further south is a row unnumbered and impassable for carts, leading from *King Street* to *Theatre Plain*. At the north-west corner is a tavern called the *Rose*;‡ and still farther south, at the north-west corner of the opening leading to Regent road, there was an old liquor shop which, in the latter part

\* After this misfortune he was appointed Librarian at the Public Library, which office he filled for some years. Pexall Forster, Precentor of Norwich Cathedral and Doctor of Music, was "taken thence into the Heavenly Choir," as his epitaph informs us, in 1719, aged 28. He bore *arg.*, a chev. betw. three bugle horns *sa.* Pexall Forster, who died in 1764, was a common councilman and searcher of the customs.

† Whether he was entitled with the late Lord Mayor of London to bear the family motto of *Strike, Dakin, strike; the devil's in the hemp*, cannot be asserted. See Denham's *Slogans of the North of England*.

‡ This national emblem is one of the oldest of signs. It was adopted by the vintners. During the contest between the factions of York and Lancaster, the Rose at public houses became red or white as either party prevailed. The Rose in the middle ages had also a religious meaning, and was an emblem of the Virgin. In the 16th century there was a suit to establish the right of Titus Marcan "to an Inn called the *Rose*," which had been the estate of Nicholas Marcan his father. This name is extinct, but there is a good Norfolk family named Marcan.

of the last century, was in the occupation of Mr. Hallmarke, who might be seen standing at his door attired in a long white apron, as was the habit with wine and liquor merchants in those days.\* He was succeeded by Mr. Diver; and the latter by his son, Mr. W. H. Diver, who died in 1871, aged 86, by whom the house next King street was rebuilt.

The *Plain* upon which the three last-mentioned rows opened extended from what had formerly been the *Main Guard* to the town gate, leading to St. George's Denes, and was bounded towards the east by the town wall, which had been "rampired" almost to the top. A narrow street, now called *Fish Street*, leads from the *Market Gate* to *Bolt's Corner*; and passing what had been the *Main Guard* divided it from the Charity School. Part of the premises, formerly the *Main Guard*, was for many years occupied as a chandlery.† In Fish street there is a chapel belonging to the Countess of Huntingdon's connection.‡

The above open space acquired the name of *Theatre Plain* in 1778, when a THEATRE was erected in the centre of it.

The first trace of dramatic representations in England is to be found in what were called "Miracle" or "Mystery plays." They were introduced by the ecclesiastics in the 12th century, and were performed in churches; and in the 14th century they became very general and popular. They were intended to present to the people a vivid representation of the principal events in scripture, and were produced at all the great festivals of the church. Christmas was a favorite time for mummers and players; and we find from the Yarmouth church accounts, quoted by Swinden, that in 1493 the churchwardens received

\* Mr. Hallmarke married Elizabeth, only child of Thomas Hammond. There is a portrait of him, by F. Vandermyn, in the possession of Francis Worship, Esq.

† The making of candles, like all other trades, was subject to special regulations. The price was fixed by the corporation at 2d. per lb. in 1552, and butchers were in the same year compelled to sell their tallow to the chandlers, and not to make candles themselves as they had previously done. In 1806 the building, "formerly used as a chandling office, situate near the Main Guard," was granted to Levi Barlow Clarke and Richard Millison Boardman, Deacons of the Independent Meeting, commonly called the *Soap Office Meeting*.

‡ Of this chapel the Rev. John Meffen was for upwards of fifty years minister. He died in 1870, aged 93.

xv. xd. for "a game" played on that day in St. Nicholas' Church.\* Before the Epiphany the old "star" had to be "scowered" or a new star made, a balk fixed up and two lines prepared, one "a nine-thread" and the other a "six-thread," which were employed "to lead the star." These were used on "the Feast of the Star" as it was called. The magi were represented by two priests, who entering the church at the great west door proceeded up the nave until, on approaching the chancel, they perceived the star hanging before the great crucifix on the rood loft, which moving back by means of lines and pulleys conducted them to the high altar, where, on putting aside a curtain, a living child was discovered representing the infant Jesus. At the same time three priests dressed as kings met from different directions before the altar, attended by servants bearing presents. During all this time an appropriate dialogue was kept up. Offerings having been made,† the kings and the magi engaged in prayer, until a boy, representing an angel, informed them that "all things had been fulfilled," when the festival concluded with chanting. On Easter-day there was always a grand spectacle, and the stage properties were numerous. Then "a sepulchre" had to be "fetched in" on Easter eve, and "set up" in the chancel, guarded by an angel which occasionally required "*mending*." In Passover week the "Paschal" was displayed, to signify the new fire or doctrine of Christ, and there are charges for "setting up the Paschal"—purchasing "a new forelock"—"making a wheel"—"painting the Paschal," hanging it up and taking it down again.‡

\* "The Creation" and "Adam and Eve" in paradise were performed in a gross manner; and the birth of the Saviour was represented as taking place on the stage.

† The well-known twelfth cakes represent these offerings.

‡ Akin to these dramatic representations is the *Passionspiel* still performed every ten years by the peasants of Oberammergau in the Bavarian Tyrol. See Blackburn's *Art in the Mountains*. In connection with representations of this kind the following anecdote may be mentioned. Many years ago an Italian vessel was lying at Yarmouth quay. Suddenly there was a great commotion on board. Apparently an old Jew was dragged from below, and when on deck was buffeted, spit upon, derided, and most unmercifully beaten. Preparations were then made for hanging him at the yard arm; a rope was rove, the noose passed over his neck, and he was run up. This was too much for the people who had collected on shore; they rushed on board, drove

The festival on Corpus Christi day usually surpassed the others in pageantry; and was intended to signify the mystical doctrine of transubstantiation. In 1489 we find by the churchwardens' accounts that there was a profit of *nlb. xs.* on "the play that was made at Bartlemewtide, all charges paid." Sometimes the stage "properties" were lent to other places, for in the churchwardens' accounts for Bungay Holy Trinity is this entry—"P<sup>d</sup> to Will<sup>m</sup> Holbruck for rydyng to Yarmouth for ye game gere, xij<sup>d</sup>" On Shrove Tuesday, in many parts of the country, a man rode about to represent Lent, clad in white and red herring skins, with his horse trapped with oyster shells. A favorite performance in many churches was the Miracle of St. Nicholas; but how the children were cut in pieces and joined together again is not clearly shown. At the reformation, when religious dramas ceased to be performed in the church, the corporation set apart a portion of the garden of the priory "adjoining the town wall near Pooden gate" (the site of the present Primitive Methodist Chapel), upon which they erected "a game house;" and in 1538, when they granted a lease of these premises to Robert Copping, they stipulated that he should "permit and suffer all such players and their audience "to have the pleasure and use of the s<sup>d</sup> house and game place, at all "such times as any interludes or plays should be ministered or played "at any time; without any profit thereof to him or his assigns to be "taken." Players were then considered legally as "vagrants," and could only escape being treated as such by attaching themselves to some great nobleman, whose livery they sometimes wore, and they were (partly at least) supported by his bounty, and could only perform with his permission. When this was not the case, they were the servants of the crown, and performed in places duly licensed; thus all public Theatres are styled Theatres Royal, and actors are to this day called "Her Majesty's servants."\* In 1695 the corporation made an order

off the crew, and cut the rope, when down came a stuffed figure intended to represent Judas Iscariot; the proceedings of the crew being intended to typify the detestation in which the betrayer was held; the day being Good Friday.

\* Bishops had the privilege of licensing both players and surgeons in the reigns of Henry VII. and Henry VIII.

that no plays should be performed without the "town music!" Was this done to cultivate a correct taste, or to provide funds for the musicians?

Benjamin Griffin, an actor of considerable eminence in low comedy, especially in representing testy old men, was born at Yarmouth in 1680. He was the son of the Rev. B. Griffin, Rector of Buxton and Oxnead, and Chaplain to the Earl of Yarmouth, who died in 1694, aged 37, leaving a wife and three children unprovided for. The son received some education at the North Walsham Grammar School, but on his father's death was apprenticed to a glazier at Norwich. Having a brisk genius and active spirit and becoming acquainted with a strolling company of players who frequented that city, he ran away from his master and became an actor; and in 1714 he was engaged at the new Theatre in Lincoln's Inn Fields, and ultimately performed at Drury Lane. He was the author of several plays and farces, including *Injured Innocence*, *Love in a Sack*, the *Humours of Purgatory*, the *Masquerade*, and *Whig and Tory*. He died in 1740, aged 59. There is an engraved portrait of him from a picture by Peter Van Bleech.

At Norwich a company of comedians was formed who occupied apartments at the *Swan Inn*. Subsequently a building in the *Swan yard* was fitted up for their performances; and the Theatre still exists in this locality. William West, a member of this company, died in 1733, aged 32.\* Henrietta Maria Bray, a popular actress, died in 1737, aged 60.† Another actress was Anne Roberts, who died in 1743, aged 30.‡ The Norwich company made periodical visits to Yarmouth, and a warehouse, which occupied part of the site of *Middlegate Chapel*

\* He was buried in the neighbouring churchyard of St. Peter's Mancroft, and the headstone had the following inscription:—

"To me 't was given to die; to thee 't is giv'n

"To live; alas! one moment sets us ev'n,

"Mark how impartial is the will of heaven."

† She was also buried at St. Peter's Mancroft, with this epitaph:—

"Here, reader, you may plainly see,

"That wit nor humour cannot be

"A proof against mortality."

‡ Likewise buried at St. Peter's Mancroft, with this inscription:—

"The world's a stage—at birth our play's begun,

"And all find exits when their parts are done."

lately erected, was in 1710 fitted up for their accommodation. When they were dispossessed to make room for the *New Meeting*, the corporation in 1736 caused the town chamber, previously used as a Dutch chapel and afterwards as a place for morning prayer, to be fitted as a Theatre "for the use of the comedians."\* The arrival of "the players" was looked forward to with great interest by the inhabitants. When the fashionable dinner hour was at two or three o'clock, the performance commenced at five. Syllas Neville mentions in his journal being frequently present.† "Our players are just come," writes Ives, Jun., in November, 1770. "I was there on Friday evening. We have got 'some new ones, but they are poor wretches. Indeed I think the 'company is at the lowest I ever knew. Chalmers is here,‡ but is 'not suffered to appear on the stage. Elated with the thought of 'preferment in London, the last night he played at Norwich he spoke 'an epilogue riding upon an ass; and in very plain terms bid the 'audience do a very unmannerly thing. Quarrelling afterwards with 'Foots, he threw up his London engagement, came down to Norwich 'and offered to make satisfaction for his public affront which was not 'accepted, and he was forbid the stage.'§ His wife however was allowed to appear. As public taste for the stage increased, the Norwich company rapidly improved until the Theatre became too small for the

\* It was opened on the 13th of December with *The Spanish Friar, or The Double Discovery*.

† When residing in London and Edinburgh he was a constant frequenter of the Theatres, and has left his opinion of all the principal actors and actresses of that period. "Prevented getting into the pit of Drury Lane till five o'clock," he says in 1767, "and was so squeezed could scarcely use my glass." He frequently went at four o'clock to secure a good place, taking a book with him. "Nov. 11, 1767.—Dined 'at Terry's. At four went into the pit at Drury Lane to see the tragedy of *Zara*—'Susegnan by Mr. Garrick with his usual excellence." On another occasion, "altho' I got into the pit fifteen minutes past four, obliged to stand in the well—'Archer by Garrick." So great was the attraction of Garrick, that on another time he says "at forty-five minutes past three o'clock went to Drury Lane Theatre, and 'though I was there before the doors were opened, got into the pit with the greatest 'difficulty and stood against a pillar in a very disagreeable position."

‡ James Chalmers. There is an engraved portrait of him.

§ From an autograph letter *penes* R. Fitch, Esq., of Norwich.

audience, and greater accommodation was required. Application was made to the corporation for leave to build a new one on the above-mentioned plain; and in 1778 the corporation granted a lease to Gibson Lucas, Esq., and ten other gentlemen for a term of 99 years,\* of the ground upon which the present building was erected; and on the 1st of December in that year the new Theatre was opened by the performance of "The English Merchant." From this period the Norwich company acquired considerable reputation for the abundance of theatrical talent which they brought forth, and with which the London Theatres were from time to time supplied. Charles Murray was a noted actor here in 1783. He was the father of Mrs. Henry Siddons, who was born at Norwich in that year. She died in 1844. To Richard Griffith, when manager of the Norwich company, Mrs. Inchbald (whose maiden name was Simpson, and who was born at Stanningfield, near Bury St. Edmund's, in 1753) applied for a theatrical engagement, when she left her widowed mother's house and commenced her extraordinary career; and for some time she appeared on the Norwich and Yarmouth boards. In 1785 the Theatre was under the management of George Leonard Barrett,† who among other means of acquiring popularity, devoted part of the receipts to the relief of incarcerated debtors. He brought out Mrs. Belville, upon whose first appearance the hour of commencement was delayed till six o'clock; and she appears to have created a great sensation. Barrett was succeeded by John Brunton, during whose management the Norwich company attained to the greatest popularity and success. Louisa his daughter married in 1807 the Earl of Craven, and by him was mother of William, eighth baron and second Earl of Craven.‡ Brunton was an admirable judge of theatrical talent, and in 1793 he engaged Blanchard, who remained with the Norwich company until his great reputation attracted the attention of the London managers, and he went to Covent Garden.§ John Powell also, for forty years an actor at Drury

\* This lease was renewed in 1815 to Mr. William Wilkins for 99 years, he undertaking to expend £1500 in the improvement of the Theatre.

† He died in 1795. There is an engraved portrait of him.

‡ Elizabeth, another of Brunton's daughters, an actress of merit, married Mr. Merry. There are engraved portraits of both sisters.

§ He died in 1835. There is an engraved portrait of him.

Lane, commenced his career on the Norwich stage.\* In 1794 a play was performed at the Yarmouth Theatre for the benefit of the widows and orphans of the men killed in Lord Howe's victory on "the glorious first of June." In the early part of the present century Mr. J. O. Hindes became the manager. He was succeeded by Mr. Smith, well known in Yarmouth for many years. Dressed in a well-brushed tight-fitting coat, black knee-breeches, and silk stockings, with a white cravat, over which appeared his rubicund clean-shaved face, surmounted by a brown-scratch wig, Mr. Smith might be seen standing daily, during the season, near the box-office of the Theatre, at the hours when tickets could be taken and seats secured.† He was a man of good manners; and annually dined by invitation with the mayor, as the custom then was.‡ Bellamy, an actor of considerable merit in genteel comedy, was afterwards associated with Smith in the management.§ Among others who were from time to time attached to the Norwich company, and who performed at Yarmouth, were Mrs. Webb, Mrs. Faucitt, and Miss Greville, who all went to Covent Garden Theatre.|| Also Robert Jerrold, whose *nom-de-guerre* was Fitzgerald. He was uncle to the well-known Douglas Jerrold. Miss Goward, a native of Ipswich, made her first appearance on the Yarmouth stage, at the age of 16, in the character of "Lucy Bartram."¶ John Purdy Beacham, a respectable actor and a

\* He died in 1836 at Zorra in Upper Canada, aged 82. There is an engraved portrait of him.

† Mr. Hunt, the popular boxkeeper, and his annual benefit must be in the recollection of many persons still living.

‡ Fitzgerald tells us that in Garrick's time, the manager of Drury Lane Theatre was expected to appear at court; and in Ireland, down to a very recent period, the lord lieutenant was accustomed to include the manager of the Dublin Theatre among his dinner guests.

§ He subsequently became lessee of the Upper Assembly Rooms at Bath. There is an engraved portrait of him.

|| Mrs. Webb died in 1793. There are portraits of all three actresses.

¶ Here she met Keeley, then a favorite actor, who married her, and took her to London, where he soon made his way up the theatrical ladder, his wife being equally a favorite with the public. After forty years of popularity, Keeley died in 1869, leaving a widow and two daughters, one of whom married Albert Smith, for some years a popular entertainer of the public; and the other, Mr. Montagu Williams.



worthy man, was a member of the Norwich company for fifty years. He died in 1840, aged 70. In more recent times the names of Vining, Wallack, and many others will occur to the recollection of all play goers. Latterly the Theatre has met with small encouragement, and the consequences are manifest.\*

Behind the Theatre and adjoining the town wall was a CAGE or lockup, now discontinued; cells being provided at the Station house on the quay.† On the east side of this plain resided Mr. Joseph Norman, who died in 1846, aged 91; and Mr. John Norman, who died in 1868, aged 80.

Room No. 66, from *Howard Street* to the *Market Place*. In this row was a place called *Crown Court*; and here in 1818 the Yarmouth Savings Bank was first established at the house of Mr. James Parker, the first manager. In the house at the north-east corner of this row, long occupied as a grocer's shop, was born Edmund Girling, an amateur artist of very considerable merit. Many of his etchings, especially from pictures by Rembrandt, evince a talent which had it been cultivated for professional purposes would have given him high rank. He commenced life as a clerk in the bank of Messrs. Gurneys and Turner, being one of those numerous young men who owed much to Mr. Dawson Turner's patronage, and removed to London in 1833 to commence business in Mark Lane. He died at 23, Clifton road, London, in 1871, aged 75. The etchings of his brother, Richard Girling, are done with much poetic feeling.

\* In 1866 Thomas Russell, a comedian, while performing here in the "Hunchback," was taken suddenly ill and died in ten minutes. On the 27th of December, 1860, during the performance of a pantomime, the clown (Thomas Algar)—

"Got touched upon the sleeve familiarly

"By death himself —,"

and expired in the arms of harlequin. Insufficiency of food and the severity of the weather are supposed to have accelerated the death of the poor fellow.

† In 1834 "a fast young man," who had been "in durance vile" for riotous conduct, was brought before the mayor, when he complained vehemently of the foulness of the cage, assuring his worship that it was the worst of its kind in the kingdom. Ludicrous as such a complaint may at first appear, yet it was not only true but just; and this was a few years afterwards acknowledged by the authorities when they erected clean, well ventilated, and separate cells for nocturnal offenders.

**Plot No. 67**, from the *Quay to Howard Street*, called *Star Tavern Row*, formerly *Mr. Nicholas Cutting's South Row*.\* This row is opposite the north boundary of what was called the "Custom House Quay."

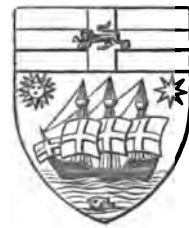
At the north-west corner stands an old three-story house, now known as the *Star Hotel*. It has a squared cut-flint front, and was built towards the close of the 16th century by William Crowe, a rich merchant, who filled the office of bailiff in 1596 and again in 1606. He was the second son of William Crowe of Crowe's hall, Suffolk (son of John Crowe of the same place), by Alice his wife, daughter and co-heir of Thomas Parker of Norwich, who bore the same arms as Archbishop Parker. Of this marriage there was an elder son, Parker Crowe, of whom nothing is known; another son, John Crowe, who settled in Norwich; and a daughter, Eleanor, who in 1601 married Anthony Loveday, Esq., of Chediston in Suffolk. John Crowe, who was bailiff of Yarmouth in 1547 and 1554, was probably the eldest son of John Crowe of Crowe's hall, and consequently uncle to William Crowe the builder of this house. The family bore for their arms *gu.*, a chevron between three cocks *crowing*, *arg.* William Crowe was probably a member of the company of "Merchant Adventurers of England," invested by Queen Elizabeth with special



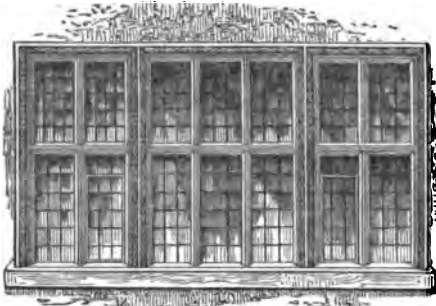
\* Nicholas Cutting was bailiff in 1619, and in 1620 was summoned before the privy council "for not aiding those who came down about starch making;" but was justified by a letter from the justices to the lord chancellor. Starch making, with its abuses, appears to have given much trouble to government at this time. His son, Nicholas Cutting, was one of the assessors of the hated ship-money in 1634. When the civil war broke out the latter sided with parliament, but afterwards not pleasing the ruling party he was constrained to resign his alderman's gown, which however was restored to him on the 6th of July, 1660, and on the 29th of August following, after the inquest had "continued about five hours," he was elected prime bailiff with James Symonds for his colleague; and was chosen again in 1667. At the visitation in 1664 he disclaimed arms; and died in 1669, aged 62. Leonard Cutting, his grandson, of Pembroke College, Cambridge, emigrated to New York, and was a professor of languages there. F. B. Cutting, grandson of the latter, was an eminent counsellor in New York. Joseph Cutting of Yarmouth died in 1704, aged 56. Rachel Holdrick, his daughter, died in 1767, aged 90. Of this family was Henry Davis Cutting, commander of the steamer *Denmark*, who was washed from the poop during a heavy gale of wind while crossing the Atlantic in 1869, aged 31.

trading privileges, as the arms of that company, carved in high relief, still remain over the fire place in the principal apartment.\* This room, on the first floor fronting the quay, is lined throughout with wainscot, which has become black with age. Square panels, which reach to the height of about five feet, are divided at regular intervals by fluted pilasters which support terminal figures, alternately male and female, between which are a series of ornamental panels richly carved. The open Elizabethan fire place had been filled up so as to fit it for a small stove, but on removing the modern woodwork in 1865 the original chimney piece of Caen stone was discovered, it never having been removed but merely covered up. The arrangement of the door, which opens from a small lobby cut out of the north-east corner of the room, is very curious and unusual.† The pendant ceiling is divided into six compartments enriched with mouldings, fruits, and flowers. This apartment presents a very perfect specimen of the mode of decorating domestic houses in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. Approached by a short flight of stairs immediately opposite the front door is another apartment, which although now divided presents some remarkable features of its former magnificence. The huge chimney still remains, but the carved mantel piece has disappeared, and the ample hearth is filled by a modern stove. The ceiling however remains in a very perfect state, and is rich with

\* The arms granted to this company are *az.*, in base a sea with a dolphin's head appearing in the water, all *ppr.* On the sea a ship with three masts in full sail *or.*, the sails and rigging *arg.*, on each sail a cross *gu.*; in the dexter chief point the sun in splendour, and in the sinister an estoile *or.*; on a chief *arg.* a cross *gu.*, charged with a lion of England. For a crest, on a wreath two arms embowed issuing out of clouds, all *ppr.*, holding a globe *or.* For supporters, two sea horses *az.*, finned *or.* This company was intended to supersede the Silyard Company of foreign merchants. In 1554 Philip and Mary incorporated a company by the name of "The Merchant Adventurers for the Discoveries of Lands, Countries, Isles, &c., not before known or frequented by the English." In 1560 Queen Elizabeth by charter confirmed all former charters and privileges to "The Company of Merchant Adventurers of England." See *F.* p. 138, and *P. C.* p. 106.



† There is a similar disposition at that fine old Elizabethan house, Thaine Park, Oxfordshire; and also in the gallery at Rockingham Castle.



pendants of unusual size and beauty. The original window still exists entire, having fourteen lights in two tiers, the six centre lights being larger than the others; and the substantial oaken frame is carved as below. The chamber over this apartment has also a similar window of twelve

lights in two tiers. Behind the present kitchen and on the same floor was another apartment, in which were discovered in 1865 the stone



jambs of a fire place of great size. This was probably the "Banqueting house" described in the title deeds of this property as having extended into the garden behind the house, and as being bounded towards the east by *Blind Middle* street. Of this Banquetinghouse nothing remains. It was utterly destroyed in 1740 to make room for a malthouse,

afterwards converted into stables, which have recently been demolished and additional rooms added to the hotel. In pulling down an old wall adjoining the house when these alterations were made, the workmen discovered three heads carved in stone and several corbels, with fragments of stone courses, mouldings, and other ornaments, all of which had been used as common building materials when the wall was erected. Embedded in a wall on the north side of Row No. 67 may still be seen the fragment of a beautiful open-work stone screen. They had all probably been brought from one of the religious houses then recently suppressed, and possibly from the cell of the Augustine Friars in *Blind Middle* street, already mentioned. Beneath the *Star*, and extending eastward, are extensive vaulted cellars.

William Crowe, who purchased Caister castle, is believed to have been the son of William Crowe, the builder of this house. He was born in 1617, and married Jane, daughter of Thomas Bransby of Great Yarmouth, by Mary his wife, a daughter of Christopher Edmond Crowe of East Bilney. He carried on the business of an upholsterer

in London, and combined with that trade the lending of money; and he appears to have been well known, for Pepys in his diary under date 20th October, 1660, speaks of having, in going through London, "called at Crowe's the upholsterer in St. Bartholomew's." Sir William Paston borrowed large sums of him, and eventually in 1659 sold to Crowe the castle of his ancestors at Caister, which he had abandoned for his new residence at Oxnead. This William Crowe died in 1668, aged 51; and by his will desired to have a monument erected to his memory in Caister church. His wish was complied with. It is surmounted by a marble bust of Crowe, and it bears a long latin inscription stating that he had lived a long time in London. The arms on this monument are those already mentioned. He appointed his brothers-in-law, Thomas Bransby and Robert Bransby, executors, and in his will he mentions his mother, Mrs. Bransby, and his cousin, Roger Crowe, son of his uncle, John Crowe of Norwich, and his cousin, Ann Bedingfield, and John Crowe her brother.\*

Thomas Bransby of Great Yarmouth, merchant, son of Robert Bransby of Shottisham,† died in 1641, leaving (besides his daughter, Jane, already mentioned) two sons, viz., Thomas Bransby of Caister and

\* In 1667 Hamond Crow, "parson of the parish of Caister," hanged himself at Mr. Crow's house in Yarmouth. *S. P.*, p. 320. He had been presented in the same year by William Crow, who on the above vacancy presented John Gibson, who had married a Crowe; and her arms are impaled with those of Gibson—*az.*, three storks *arg.*—on their gravestone in Caister church. Roger Crowe of Yarmouth filled the office of Sheriff of Norfolk in 1702. He bore gyronny of eight *or.* and *az.*, on a chief of the second two leopards' heads of the first. Dashwood's *Viccomites Norfolkias*.

† The name is supposed to be derived from Brandsby in Yorkshire. The Norfolk family were seated at Shottisham at an early period. Brandsby hall in Yorkshire is the seat of F. Cholmeley, Esq., of whose family was Capt. Cholmeley, R.N., lately Inspecting Commander at Great Yarmouth. Upon a sepulchral stone in Shottisham church, in memory of Elizabeth Bransby, who died in 1718, aged 32, there is this epitaph "by her spouse"—

"Quæ Pia, quæ Prudens, quæ Provida, pulchra fuisti

"Uxor, in Æternum, chara, beata; VALR."

The Bransbys of Suffolk had an estate at Mendham, belonging previously to the Hobarts, which in 1736 passed to the Holmes family of Gawdy hall. Thomas Bransby, a cousin of the above-named Thomas Bransby, was residing at Pakefield in Suffolk in 1641.

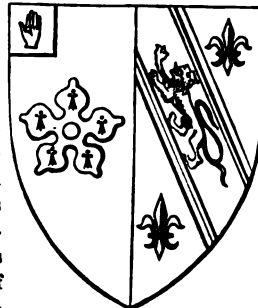
Great Yarmouth, High Sheriff of Norfolk in 1681, and Robert Bransby of Great Yarmouth, who died in 1692, leaving considerable property.\* Thomas Bransby resided in the Yarmouth house, and died in 1683, aged 56, leaving an only child, Elizabeth (sole heir of her father and uncle), who married Sir Philip Astley, Bart., of Melton Constable, and died in 1738, aged 67, leaving a son, Sir Jacob Astley, Bart., who sold the above-mentioned house to Thomas Dawson of Great Yarmouth, merchant and maltster.† He demolished the Banqueting room and erected a malthouse on the site. Dawson conveyed the property in

\* They bore *az.* on a bend cotised *sa.*, between two fleur de lys *gu.*, a lion passant *arg.* A hatchment with these arms still remains in the chancel of St. Nicholas' church. Dean Davis in his diary makes frequent mention both of the Bransbys and the Crowes, with whom he appears to have been very intimate. A branch of the above family of Crowe settled at Norwich, where they became opulent manufacturers, chiefly engaged in the export trade, in which business they were succeeded by William Taylor, the father of William Taylor, the author of *English Synonyms* and an *Historical Survey of German Poetry*, and translator of Goëthe's *Iphigenia in Tauris*, Bürger's *Leonore*, &c. He was one of the first of our countrymen to draw attention to German literature, which his relation, Mrs. Austin, continued by her various translations. Taylor died in 1836, aged 68.

† By the above marriage the Astley family acquired an important addition of fortune. They also obtained a number of portraits, which were arranged at Melton Constable, in what was called "The Bransby Room." The Yarmouth or junior branch of the Bransby family is represented by the present Lord Hastings of Melton Constable. The senior or Shottisham branch is represented by the Cooper



family, the Rev. Dr. Cooper (p. 168), father of the first Sir Astley Paston Cooper, Bart., having married one of the two daughters and co-heirs of James Bransby, Esq., of Shottisham. In the annexed shields—Cooper impales Bransby and Paston quarterly, and Astley impales Bransby. The descent of the Coopers from the



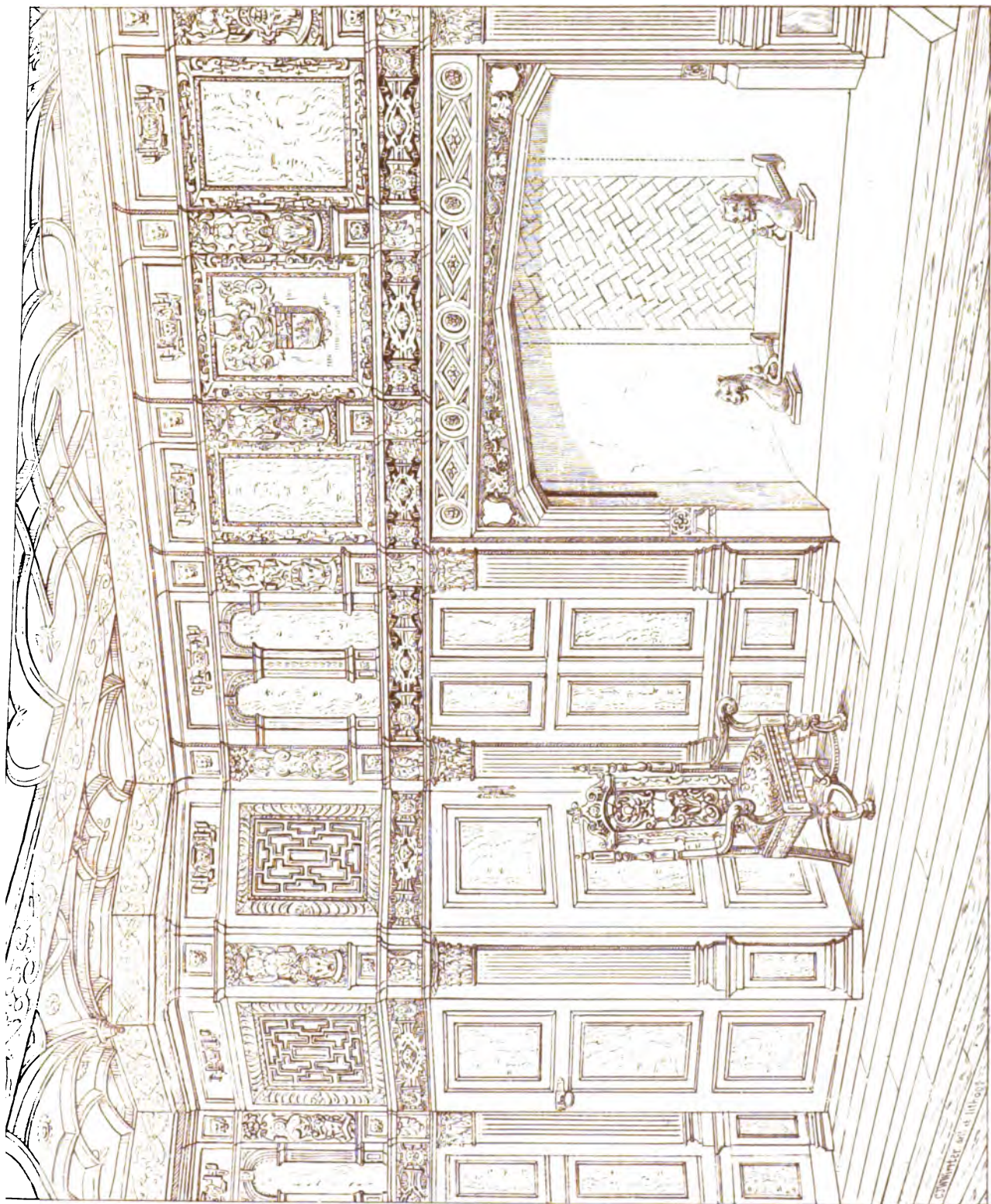
Paston family we shall have occasion to mention farther on.

1749 to Robert Wilson, Esq., of London, a wealthy corn merchant, who died in 1765, leaving two daughters his co-heirs, one of whom, Dorothy, married Anthony Chamier, Esq., and died without issue, and the other, Elizabeth, became the wife of Thomas Bradshaw, Esq., by whom she had four sons (viz.), Robert Heldane Bradshaw, Esq., of Worsley hall, Lancashire, and of Runcorn in Cheshire, agent for the Bridgewater canals, and sometime M.P. for Brackley in Northamptonshire (now disfranchised), who died in 1835, aged 75; Barrington Bradshaw, Esq., who died in the East Indies in 1804; Lawrence Bradshaw, Esq., a Lieut.-Colonel in the Life Guards; and Augustine Hill Bradshaw, Esq., of Lower Seymour street.\* In 1806 the latter gentleman, in whom the Yarmouth property of his family had centred, sold *The Star Tavern* to Mr. William Woolverton, who in 1824 conveyed it to Mr. George Bennett, then a comic actor attached to the Norwich Company of Comedians. By him it was sold to Mr. William Holmes Diver, who in 1865 conveyed it to Mr. Shales, the present proprietor.

On the 29th of October, 1769, a "Society of Friends" was instituted, the promoters being John Fisher, Robert Cory, Benjamin Norfor, William Norfor, George Riches, and John Sayers, whose object was to found a social club, the members of which should meet on a stated evening every week in winter, and once a month in summer. Eventually it became known as the FRIENDLY, and the numbers were increased to twenty-five, and ultimately to thirty. A president was elected at each meeting in rotation, and a treasurer and secretary annually. They

\* There was a popular belief, aided by statements in guide books and mentioned in White's *Eastern England*, that this house had been the property and residence of Bradshaw, the President of the High Court of Justice which sent King Charles I. to the scaffold. Such certainly was not the fact. There is no evidence that President Bradshaw was ever in Yarmouth; and, as we have seen, the house did not become the property of a family of that name until the latter part of the 18th century. The Bradshaws of Runcorn in Cheshire claim however to be of the same family as the Bradshaws of Marple hall in Cheshire, which was the residence of the president. The house at Marple is much decorated with coats of arms and mottoes; and contains some fine old oak-carved bedsteads, one of which tradition says was made expressly for the president. This family of Bradshaw bore *arg.*, two bendlets betw. two martlets *sa.*, for difference an annulet *gu.*; and for a crest, a stag at gaze under a vine, a vine tree fructed, all *ppr.* See Omerod's *Cheshire*, v. iii., p. 408.









adopted as a device an open hand upon which was the human heart. Conviviality and good fellowship were principally cultivated, but benevolence was not lost sight of, and at one time the club maintained a school for ten boys. When first formed the members met at the *Old Half Moon*, then kept by Mr. Shreeve, whom they followed in 1788 to the *Tuns*, and in the next year to the *Star*, where the society has ever since remained. Absent members were fined; and the marriage of any one of them, or of their children, or "an increase in the family" was always celebrated by a donation of wine. Thus on the marriage of Mr. Norfor, their treasurer, "with Elizabeth, daughter of Mr. Wright of London," in 1789, he presented the club with a "five-pint bottle of wine;" and in 1798 Mr. William Palgrave, on a like occasion, "gave half-a-dozen of wine." In 1794 Mr. Ferrier, in consequence of "an increase in his family," presented the club with a glass decanter, having their device engraved thereon, filled with four bottles of wine. It was accidentally broken in 1802; but was replaced. Sometimes the gift was varied to a bowl of punch. In 1795 Keymer, who had previously resided at Norwich but who had come to Yarmouth and had joined the society, painted the portrait of Mr. Nathaniel Symonds, who long filled the office of treasurer; and in 1804 he did the like for Mr. Norfor, an old and esteemed member; both pictures still remaining in the club room. The victory of the Nile was celebrated by the club, and Keymer was permitted when Nelson was in Yarmouth to paint a portrait of the hero, which was "esteemed a capital likeness;\*" and in 1805, after the battle of Trafalgar, Keymer presented the picture to the club with whom it still remains, and gives to the apartment in which the club hold their meetings the name of the "Nelson Room." At the annual dinner strangers in the town might be introduced; and a naval officer who dined with the society in 1802 presented them with a 38lbs. shot, which had been fired into H.M.S. *Polyphemus*, and lodged in the bread room; and also with a colour taken from the Danish fleet at Copenhagen. At the centenary of this society a silver tankard was purchased, upon which the names of all the then existing members were inscribed.

\* This portrait was painted from the life at the *Wrestlers*; and the late Mr. S. H. Aldred used to relate that he was present at the sittings.

In 1788 a dinner took place at the *Star* to celebrate the completion of the first century after the "glorious revolution," which placed the house of Hanover on the throne of these realms. This dinner was attended by Matthew Champion,\* probably the only person then living who had landed in England with William III.

The house at the south-west corner of Row No. 67, fronting the quay, was prior to 1686 vested in John Warren of Burgh Castle, eldest son and heir of William Warren of Ormesby, as trustee for Anne, the widow of John Hall, Esq. (of whom hereafter), who then resided at Sheen in Surrey.† In 1686 Warren ‡ conveyed this house to William Salter, Esq.,§ of Norwich, from whom it descended to William Salter of Great Yarmouth, his son and heir, who conveyed it in 1700 to John Risebrow, then an Alderman of Norwich;¶ and he in 1723 sold it to Thomas Royal. It was then a tavern called *The Black Boys*. || Royal

\* This man, whose longevity is so remarkable, was born in French Flanders in 1681, and when seven years old came over with his father who was a farrier in the army of the Prince of Orange. For some years he was in the service of Capt. Legge Prendergrass, a son of Sir Thomas Prendergrass. During the latter part of his life he resided in an alms house, and was much respected as an honest, sober, and industrious man. He died in 1793, having then attained the great age of 111 years. There is a portrait of him etched by Archdeacon Gooch. He was buried at the expense of the mayor (Sir Edmund Lacon), whose officers in their cocked hats and gowns carried him to his grave in St. Nicholas' churchyard.

On the 14th July, 1790, a number of gentlemen assembled at the *Star Tavern* to celebrate "the first anniversary of the glorious revolution in France."

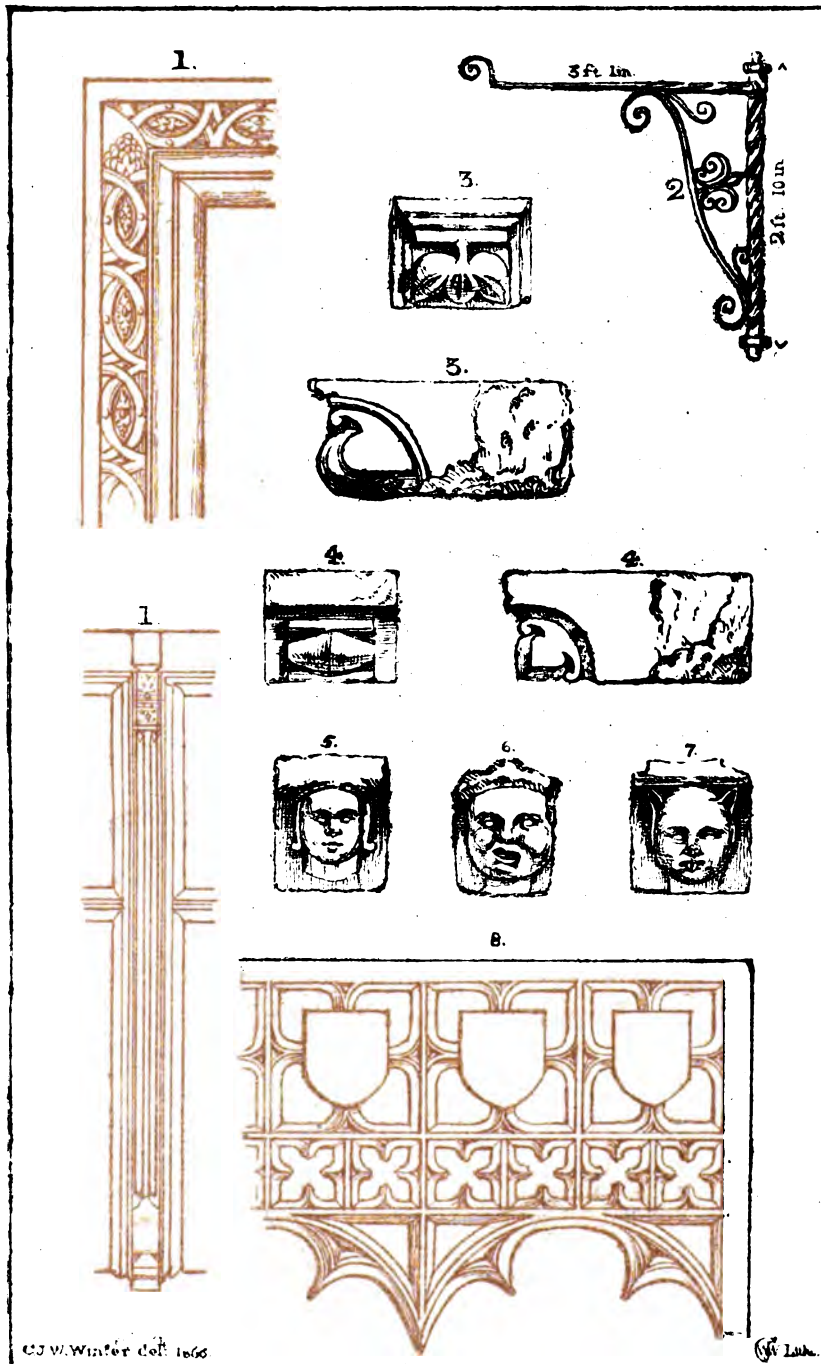
† A John Warren filled the office of bailiff in 1615, 1627, and 1636. He was a Captain of Local Militia.

‡ By his will made in 1699 he charged his houses in the *Foreland* with 40s. yearly, to be paid for the use of the poor.

§ He bore *gw.*, ten billets *or.* The Salters of Battisford in Suffolk bore the same arms within a bordure eng. *arg.*, charged with 16 hurts and torteauses alternately.

¶ He bore *sa.*, on a fess betw. three cinquefoils *or.*, a frette. Crest, a frette betw. two wings *arg.*

|| This is a sign of venerable antiquity now gone out of fashion. Early in the present century the then Lord Chief Baron at Chelmsford assizes examined an ancient deed by which it appeared that the principal Inn there had been called the *Black Boys* from the time of Edward II. This old house was pulled down in 1857. An Inn of long standing at Aylsham is also so called. It has been conjectured that the word *boy* may be a corruption of *bois*, and that illusion was intended to the black forests of Germany so celebrated in the middle ages. The *Black Boy*, from the first introduction of the "weed," has been adopted as a sign by tobaccoconists.





had been elected town clerk in 1720, in succession to Mr. Turner. He pulled down the *Black Boys*, which stood a little backward, and by leave of the corporation erected a stately house which still remains. Royal died in 1739, aged 55, leaving four daughters his co-heirs, namely, Elizabeth, who married the Rev. Edward White, and died at Norwich in 1796, aged 84; Hester, who married Mr. Daniel Meek\* of Cork; and Margaret and Sarah who were unmarried.

In 1747 the house so built by Royal was conveyed to JOHN RAMEY, Esq., one of the most remarkable men in our local history of the last century. He was the son of John Ramey,† a master mariner, by Margaret Pulteney his wife.‡ The father was lost at sea in 1718 when the son was an infant. He was brought up by his widowed mother; and on her death in 1758, aged 64, Ramey erected a monument to her memory in the Parish church, and recorded thereon that he had done so "in justice and gratitude to those abilities of her mind and that "goodness of her heart to which, under Providence, he was chiefly "indebted for his prosperity." He commenced life as an attorney, and his shrewdness and sagacity soon enabled him to take up a leading position. His great ambition was not only to acquire a fortune, but to form a political party in the town which should own him as leader. He married (as we have seen *supra*. p. 234) Abigail, one of the two daughters and eventually co-heirs of William Browne, Esq.,§ and his merits not being sufficiently appreciated, as he considered, by the whigs, he aided his father-in-law in the attempts made by him to wrest the representation of the borough from the Walpole and Townshend families; but eventually withdrawing his opposition he gave them his warm support. This tergiversation caused much bitterness of feeling among those who had been his former political friends, and was especially annoying to Mr. Richard Fuller, who had been put forward

\* There was a family of this name of long continuance in Yarmouth. In 1573 George Meeke filled the office of bailiff, and in 1580 he gave £10 to the corporation.

† The name was originally spelt Remy. John Remy, the father of the last-named John Ramey, was a mariner living in 1678.

‡ Michael Pulteney, probably her father, died in 1736, aged 75.

§ She died in 1811, aged 85, and was buried in Ormesby church.

to fight the battle against the Walpole and Townshend party, and who had been three times defeated in the contest. The controversy which ensued between these quondam friends, sheds considerable light upon the manner in which elections for boroughs were conducted in the middle of the last century. Ramey having been violently attacked by Fuller, published a "Justification" of his conduct in *A Letter addressed to R. F., Esq.*, which the latter designated as "a virulent invective," and published a "vindication" which he calls "*A proper reply to the Letter to R. F. Esq. in a letter to a Friend.*" Both productions are very bitter, but Ramey, who is the more concise writer, ridicules "the elegant flowers, similes, and allusions" contained in Mr. Fuller's pamphlet, interspersed with such "coarse language" as to lead to the supposition that the writer had "quitted the seat of religion, learning, and decency, before he had finished his studies," insinuating that Fuller had hastily left the university. Fuller accuses his adversary of "confounding all dates, falsifying all facts, and forging private conversations," matters, which "like the disguise of the original deceiver in Milton, will not abide the touch of Ithuriel's spear." Ramey always designates his adversary as the *Letter signor*, because he says it would be too great a compliment to suppose him to be the *author*. Who the latter was, Ramey says he knew very well, but will not name him as he has not "strict evidence." "The little sleek animal, "who betrays himself by the heap of dirt he throws up, may defy the "watchful gardener to convict him judicially, as he never sees him "openly at the work; but the errantest novice of a ploughboy, who "views the production, will not be at a moment's loss as to what species "of vermin it is owing." Fuller admits that having been served twice in his election contests by Ramey, he had no right to quarrel with him for not serving him a third time; but yet he could not help feeling the indignity of being "made a kind of Shrovetide cock by this great man, "to be set up only to be knocked down again for his emolument and "diversion." Ramey having repeatedly stated that Fuller was under personal obligations to him, the latter quotes—

"To John I ow'd great obligation,

"But John unhappily thought fit

"To publish it to all the nation,

"Sure John and I are more than quit."

The writer then descends to facts, and we catch an amusing insight as to the working of political parties at that time. Fuller says that at the Michaelmas feast of 1753, Sir Edward Walpole and the Right Hon. Charles Townshend, the sitting members, who attended the dinner according to custom, were coolly received by Ramey and his friends, in consequence of the latter not having obtained a place in the customs for which Ramey had applied.\* This incident raised the hopes of Fuller and his party, and shortly afterwards Mr. Love and Mr. Benjamin Cooke called upon Fuller and urged him to declare himself. He therefore waited upon Ramey, who referred him to Mr. Browne his father-in-law, who received him with much civility and many assurances of support, and on the 9th of November he was nominated a candidate at a general meeting of freemen held at the Town hall. At this meeting Fuller declared "that if the election was only to be carried by the methods too long practised at this place, he declined to employ them. If," said he, "the votes of the electors were freely bestowed he would accept them with thanks, but if they were to be sold he declared himself not a purchaser." Afterwards he found himself committed to his friends, who "enjoyed perhaps the unrivalled and honorable distinction of being at that time the only electors of England who supported, for their candidate, the expense of a contest in his favor."† Fuller boasts that when he first "came over" to him, Ramey was "a little understrapper in the cause of corruption," and that it was he, Fuller, who first introduced Ramey "to the notice and acquaintance of many gentlemen of the first rank and character in the county; whom at that time Ramey had no other chance or pretence of knowing." Ramey at this contest subscribed towards the expenses; but Fuller denies that any pecuniary loss was sustained. At the general election in 1754 the return of the Right Hon. Chas. Townshend and Sir Edward Walpole was unsuccessfully opposed by Fuller and Browne; and Ramey

\* See a letter from Mr. Townshend, stating how impossible it was for him to comply with the request made to him. *P. C.*, p. 219.

† Ramey having asserted that Fuller was not so pure as he pretended, the latter challenged the former to produce a single instance of corruption; whereupon Ramey mentioned the payment by Fuller of £4 for a suit of colours stipulated for by a ship-master as the price of his vote.



then exerted himself to form a party in the corporation called the "Steadies," with the view of bringing about a different result at a future time. To obtain the ascendancy there were "frequent struggles in the King's Bench and mandamuses on both sides," to the no small profit of Ramey, says Fuller, upon whom the legal business naturally devolved; and having at last obtained a majority in the corporation Ramey, as Fuller asserts, propounded a scheme for creating such a number of freemen among the friends of the latter as would ensure his return, and that this project was only defeated by Fuller's refusal to sanction it. In 1756 Mr. Townshend vacated his seat by accepting the office of Treasurer of His Majesty's Chamber; and Mr. Charles Townshend (only son of the Hon. William Townshend, a former member), afterwards Lord Bayning, who was then Secretary to the Embassy at Madrid, was nominated to succeed him. Fuller was put up in opposition, and was only defeated by thirty-two votes. Undismayed by this result, Ramey recommended "that the only way was to tire our opponents "out with expense, and never to suffer them to have an election or "re-election without a contest." The first disagreement between these two worthies was caused by the election of Mr. Bracey Taylor, another solicitor, into the corporation contrary to the wishes of Ramey. The latter, says Fuller, soon after entered into a negotiation with some persons of rank and influence connected with administration, and having fixed a frivolous quarrel upon Fuller, went over with his friends to the Townshend party. Three days after the publication of the *Proper Reply*, Ramey addressed *An Appeal to the Public*, prefixed to which was an advertisement signed by Browne, in which he expressed the opinion that Ramey was "justified in withdrawing from the support of Mr. Fuller's interest." Ramey asserted that Fuller's only ambition was gratified, because "his opposition raised him to a level with the persons he opposed," and he declined to aid any further in gratifying this little vanity at the expense of inflaming the minds of thousands "for no other "purpose than to lift up one man above his natural size, and that only "for the space of a single day." He therefore deserted him, and gave his support "to the two great families, who had furnished representatives to the town for many years past, and were distinguished in this



*Richard Fuller, Esq.*





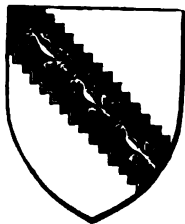
"county for their rank, fortune, and public merit." After the interchange of these amenities the literary duel ended, Fuller having declared that he would not be provoked to renew the contest; and the result appears to have been that Ramey obtained the substance, and Fuller the shadow; for Browne received the lucrative appointment of Receiver General for the county, to which on his death Ramey succeeded. Ramey filled the office of mayor in 1760, and again in 1773. By this time he had acquired great wealth, and was possessed of considerable landed estates in Ormesby and Scratby, which gave him so much influence that he was popularly called "The King of Flegg." Syllas Neville styles him "one of the mighty men of these parts." On the 10th of February, 1768, his ambition was gratified by the marriage (at Yarmouth church) of his eldest daughter, Abigail Browne, with Alexander, 9th Earl of Home, and she became the mother of Alexander, 10th Earl of Home, the direct ancestor of the present earl.\* In 1778

\* It is not to be supposed that a man who had carved such a fortune for himself should escape the envy of those less prosperous. Sayers, the caricaturist, who had been his articulated clerk, makes him say—

*"My well-known character, and station high,  
 "Bid me Mundungus' pointed shafts defy;  
 "To gain that station, merit paved the road,  
 "And what I blush'd to ask, my friends bestow'd.  
 "I never offered incense to a peer,  
 "Or talk'd of places in a courtier's ear;  
 "Who says I did?—let him aloud declare it;  
 "'Tis false by heaven!—and Spurgeon, you can swear it."*

Spurgeon, of whom hereafter, was town clerk, and a great supporter of Ramey.

Under a direction contained in his maternal grandfather's will, Lord Home in 1814 assumed by royal sign manual the name of Ramey; and thus the poor widow's son and the country attorney was enabled to impose his name upon one of the oldest and proudest families in Scotland. By the same authority Lord Home likewise quartered



the arms of Ramey—*or.*, on a bend *sa.*, cotised indented of the second, three eagles displayed *or.* They appear upon a hatchment remaining in the chancel of Yarmouth church, and upon the monument already mentioned. The Earl of Home, Ramey's son-in-law, died in 1786. The Lady Caroline Home, their eldest daughter, died at the above-mentioned house on the quay in 1794, and was buried in the chancel of Ormesby church, where there is a mural monument to her memory. Lady Charlotte Home, the second daughter, married the

Ramey was exposed to some obliquy for having taken out "an extent in aid" for the recovery of a considerable sum of money which he had privately lent, at heavy interest, upon a note of hand, and he endeavoured to justify himself in the public papers; and about the same time a reward of £300 and a free pardon were offered for the discovery of some person who had threatened to assassinate him and the Rev. Edward Holden.\* Having dropped the attorney, Ramey was admitted to the higher dignity of the bar, but never practised at it. During the latter years of his life he resided principally at Scratby hall, where he died in 1794, aged 75,† being then the oldest member, or, as it was termed, "father of the corporation."‡ He was buried at Ormesby, with which parish Scratby is consolidated, there being no church remaining in the latter place.§

Rev. Charles Baillie Hamilton, Archdeacon of Cleveland, second son of the Hon. George Baillie of Jerviswood. Their son, George Gerald Hamilton, Esq., was Receiver General of Droits of Admiralty, and held that office until its abolition. He resided for many years at Bedford. Alexander Ramey, 10th Earl of Home, died in 1842, aged 73. He was for many years one of the representative peers of Scotland. In the diary of Sir John Hope, Bart., of Craighall, there are these entries. "17 Aug., "1643.—The Countess of Home tuck journey to Berwick, and their takkis schip to "Yarmouth, neir to guhilk the lady her mother remayns;" and 30 Aug.—"This "samayne day the Countess of Home tuck journey in the samayne schip with the "Commissioners for Yarmouth to meit thairabout with the lady her mother, guhois "place is within some 7 myles of Yarmouth."

\* See *ante*. p. 284. He died in 1797.

† His death seems to have been expected some years previously, for in 1778 Martineau, the eminent surgeon at Norwich, writing to Syllas Neville, says, "Ramey "is yet living, but many are wishing his departure, as he cannot carry with him the "revenue of Receiver General." And a few months later he writes, "Ramey has "resigned the receivership to William Fisher. The former continues in a very "precarious state, in spite of all the endeavours of Macqueen to give him health." Macqueen was at that time a practising physician in Yarmouth. He afterwards went to Norwich. He married in 1791 the daughter of Thomas Potter, Esq., of Harley street; took up his residence in London; and had a very considerable fortune bequeathed to him.

‡ Ramey introduced the rich brocaded crimson-satin gown still worn by the Mayors of Yarmouth instead of the former robe. Those aldermen who had not passed the chair wore robes of scarlet cloth edged with black velvet.

§ There is a mural monument to his memory in the chancel of Ormesby church, which is surmounted by the arms of Ramey impaling Browne.

SCRATBY HALL, the country house of Ramey, five miles north of Yarmouth, was occupied by his daughter, the Dowager Countess of Home, until her death in 1814, aged 68. The house was originally built by John Fisher, Esq., and was by him sold to Ramey at a time when it was occupied by Syllas Neville; and as we have had, and shall have, occasion to quote from the very minute and amusing M.S. diary of the latter, it may be well to state here who he was. Syllas Neville, as he asserts, was "born of a good family and bred up in affluence and in all the ideas of elegant life."\* Where he was educated does not appear; but he was an excellent classical scholar and a man of refined taste. At an early age he inherited a considerable fortune; but his habits were expensive, and he appears to have soon dissipated a considerable portion of it. Tired of an idle life in London, he determined to retire into the country; and coming down to Yarmouth, was so pleased with the situation of Scratby hall that he took a lease of it from Christmas, 1768, for twelve years. Wearying, however, of a country life, and alarmed at the rapid diminution of his fortune, for his expenditure appears to have always greatly exceeded his income,† he determined to study medicine, and for this purpose passed three winters at the University of Edinburgh, returning to Scratby for the summer months. Having in 1776 taken his degree with considerable credit, he went to London to "walk the hospitals;" and in the following year he accompanied his friend, Mr. Gifford, on a continental tour. They visited Holland, France, and Italy; but when at Rome Mr. Gifford died. Neville however lingered on the continent for some years longer. At Rome he made the acquaintance of Mr. Patteson of Norwich, who was then on his travels; and at Naples he was introduced to Sir William Hamilton. The ambassador's first wife was then alive, and Syllas Neville says "her good sense, benevolent disposition, "amiable manners, and polite attention to all who had the honor of

\* He says very little about his relations, but it appears that he had an uncle, from whom he received a gold watch (with the family arms engraved upon it), who commanded a man of war.

† He makes this extraordinary confession in his diary,—*"Settled my last year's account (1768) and found that I had spent very near four times my income."*

"being presented to her, added dignity to the high station in which she resided abroad, and made the house of the minister at Naples the most agreeable upon the continent to travellers of his country." Returning to Norfolk in 1781, he settled as a physician at Norwich, where being one of those clever men who never succeed in the dull business of life, he acquired more friends than patients, and during his latter years experienced all the inconveniences of the *res angusta domi*, coupled with a liberal spirit and an inclination for expense. He died at his house in the Close, Norwich, at an advanced age.

When at Scratby, Neville made the acquaintance of the Earl of Home,\* and when studying medicine at Edinburgh in 1774 his lordship introduced him to some of the leading physicians of that city, and also invited him to his country seat, the Hirsel. Neville describes this estate as bounded for more than three miles by the Tweed, which is there a considerable river, and the house as pleasantly situated upon an eminence, almost surrounded by plantations (principally of firs) rising on every side like an amphitheatre. "The house," he adds, "has been lately repaired, and is very elegantly furnished. Lord Home keeps a good table, and has every thing elegant, but I suppose old Ramey comes down a good deal, as my lord's fortune was much reduced." He describes the countess as "a good and pretty woman," who had "acquired a great deal of the Scotch accent." These civilities were the more commendable, as the violence of the young doctor's political and religious opinions, and the openness with which he avowed them, could

\* The following card (found among the Neville papers) is printed here as illustrative of the social habits of the period :—

"*Mr. Ramey presents his compliments to Mr. Neville, and if he is disengaged Mr. R., with Lord and Lady Home, and his family will drink a dish of tea with him at Scratby to-morrow afternoon.*"

Neville says they were accompanied by Lord Dunglass. Ramey was very desirous that Lord Home should take up his residence at Scratby, promising to add a farm, and otherwise make the place "warm" for him. The earl naturally preferred his ancestral seat, but having consented to pass part of the year at Scratby, Neville's lease was cancelled, and Ramey rebuilt the greater part of the house, making it mainly what it now is, but the tower has been removed. Lord Dunglass, above mentioned, was the eldest son of the Earl of Home by his first marriage with Primrose, daughter of Lord Elphinstone. He became an officer in the foot guards, and was mortally wounded at the battle of Guildford in America in 1781, and died unmarried.



SALUS POPULI

*Sylls Neville.*





not have been agreeable to his lordship. Neville in early life embraced with great enthusiasm extreme republican principles, and lived on intimate terms with many leading men of that party; and in religion he joined the Socinians. Among his London acquaintances were Timothy Hollis and Thomas Hollis, the descendants of that celebrated republican, Thomas Hollis;\* and with them he afterwards kept up a correspondence. "Mr. Hollis," says Neville in his M.S. diary, "is against all hereditary honours; and thinks there should be but two orders in the state. He surprised me by saying that the lower class of people should not be taught even to read or write;" and farther on Neville says, "Mr. Hollis agrees with me that no person is a true friend to liberty who is not a republican, and says I shall find many at Paris ready to receive my sentiments when I can communicate them." "The House of Hanover," wrote Hollis to Neville, "is now the same as the House of Stuart, and rather worse; for they spend more of our money, and this George has the same arbitrary principles." The diary is sprinkled with numerous passages of a similar tendency; but here and there it is mutilated as if the writer in after years had considered some of them too strong to bear the light. What remain will probably be considered sufficiently violent. "May 29.—Wore mourning, being the day appointed for celebrating the restoration of monarchy and despotism in this nation." "July 3.—This day being appointed for the wretched worshippers of royalty to go out of mourning, put myself into it for my much-regretted friend, Mr. Barron."

Sylas Neville, writing from London in 1767, says that amongst his friends it was then maintained that "if a tyrant or bad magistrate could not be brought to justice in a solemn and regular manner, every individual had a right to kill him as an enemy of mankind, just as he had a right to kill a mad dog;" and in a book then published by Barron, assassins like Felton were openly defended. "I breakfasted,"

\* This family left Yorkshire about the middle of the 17th century, and established in the Minories a hardware trade, by which they acquired considerable property. They were distinguished for their zealous attachment to civil and religious liberty, and for the liberality with which they supported their principles. The last descendant in the male line of this opulent family was John Hollis, Esq., of High Wycombe, who died in 1824, aged 81.

he says, "4 Nov., 1767, with Barron. He tells me that Cumberland "is even more haughty, insolent, and wicked than the rest of the royal "family, and despises the people;—that he drew an insult on himself "at York Races;—thinks that we cannot be saved but by a general "rising. This is my opinion, though I express it at present to true "friends of liberty only." "14 Dec., 1767.—Dined at St. Clement's "chophouse. Did not go to see Garrick that I might avoid the abhorred "sight of George III. and his family;" but in the following year he says, "Bore the abhorred sight of George and Charlotte, to have the pleasure of seeing Garrick." "Many," he adds, "would not remove their hats." He met Mrs. Macaulay in society, and was informed by her that there was then (1767) "a great spirit of liberty beginning in France." It chanced one day that he and this lady walked past an open grave when Mrs. Macaulay exclaimed, "I would gladly leap in if I could take monarchy with me." He thus describes a visit to her house in 1768. "We got to Mrs. Macaulay's in St. James' place about 11 o'clock. "She received us with great civility in her study, where we drank "chocolate. She is a charming creature. Her penetration, her judgment, her knowledge, her virtue, her love of liberty, her greatness of "soul which shines with lustre in her truly free and benevolent principles, "are amazing in this age of corruption and dissipation. In the course of "conversation she made some excellent remarks—that the opinion of "there being an obligation of morality or religion to submit to government is productive of the greatest evils and absurdities; and that it is a "mere human institution of convenience, and approved by God, where it "is mentioned in His word, only as such. It is surprising with what "readiness the Tories, many of whom do not believe a word of scripture, "quote it in support of tyranny. What St. Paul said was calculated for "the christians of that time. She thinks the only article all should be "obliged to subscribe to is, that all men who act according to conscience "and the light of nature, may be saved. This excellent person cannot "help being such an enthusiast as to entertain the idea that Providence "will not longer suffer its ends to be frustrated; and that mankind by the "diffusion of knowledge will soon arrive at a state of such perfection as "their nature requires. She thinks it will be better if the people suffer

"a little more oppression before they rise; they may then act with the greater spirit; and that if a revolution were then to happen, knowledge was not sufficiently diffused for the settlement of liberty on a solid basis. She heard that a great spirit of liberty was beginning in France." "How much does the cause of liberty owe to this lady," exclaims Neville, "who has reduced herself to a diet of milk and vegetables on account of a bilious complaint, and forbears to go out of town this season in order to finish the fourth volume of her history." Neville and his friends sympathized with the North American colonists in their contention with the mother country; and ardently desired that the States might "become free and independent, so that they might be an asylum to those Englishmen who had spirit and virtue enough to leave their country when it submitted to domestic or foreign tyranny." When at Scratby, Neville kept up a correspondence with the Rev. C. Fleming, an eminent dissenting minister in London, who advised him upon political affairs. Writing in 1769 he says, "The Thane (Lord Bute) has the full grasp of the sceptre of majesty, and he and Mansfield are the two fiends that control the system." The king's answer to the "City Remonstrance" caused a great stir at that time; and Fleming says that when his majesty spoke acrimoniously of the "Patriots" to the queen, she replied "Remember, Sir, you are king of a nation which is to be governed rather by love than authority; the English are not a people who obey because they *must*, but because they *will*; and you have sufficient examples in the annals of your ancestors, that when once the person of a king falls into contempt, his dignity is little regarded." Fleming said "he was obliged to pray for George Guelph lest his mouth should be stopt." Syllas Neville propounded his revolutionary opinions in all places and on all occasions—at taverns and on stage coaches, as often as in private society; and it speaks well for the "despotism" of which he so much complained, that he never received the slightest molestation. Neville not only lived to moderate his political and religious opinions, but to veer round to the opposite extreme.

After the death of the Dowager Countess of Home, Scratby hall was let to Mr. Isaac Everitt, who resided there for many years; and on

his death it was sold to the Rev. Richard Forster, who had been presented by the Dean and Chapter of Norwich to the Vicarage of Ormesby with Scratby annexed in 1836, in succession to the Rev. Richard Turner. There was then no Parsonage house, and Mr. Forster resided at Scratby hall until his death in 1866, when the hall, with some land, was purchased by Robert Shingles Watling, Esq., the present proprietor.\*

Ramey purchased all the property lying eastward of his Yarmouth house as far as *Howard* street, and converted a considerable portion of it into a garden attached to his house, and devised the whole to his widow, who occupied the same until her death in 1799.† She left the property to her daughter, the Countess Dowager of Home, who occupied it as a town house until 1811 when she sold it to John Watson, Esq., at that time town clerk. The name of Watson had been of some continuance in Yarmouth. Stephen Watson was one of the committee appointed to draw up the ordinances in 1491. William Watson was bailiff in 1486. Henry Watson was a witness in the cause between the town and Sir William Paston. Thomas Watson was named a corporator in the charter of Charles II. Robert Watson died in 1724, aged 76. John Watson was a member of the corporation in 1734. Thomas Watson, the father of the town clerk, died in 1775, aged 53, and Rosamond his wife in 1778, aged 51. John Watson, the purchaser of the above-mentioned house, was chosen town clerk in 1799, and held that office until 1822. He married Mary, daughter of William Fisher, Esq., and died in 1828, aged 78; his wife dying in the same year, aged 77.‡

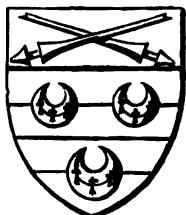
\* This name is probably derived from Watling-ton, Norfolk.

† Mrs. Ramey was a great proficient in the art of drawing with a *poker*, and the rooms of this house were adorned with copies by her of paintings by Panini, Giselphi, and others, in this peculiar style of art. The author of the *Norfolk Tour*, published in 1772, notices these "very elegant and extraordinary performances," and says that "the neatness and minute accuracy with which they were done, was wonderful." The back drawing room in this house was, down to a late period, lined with stamped-gilt leather, a very handsome and costly decoration prevalent before the introduction of paper hangings. Much information regarding poker-drawings may be obtained by reference to *Notes and Queries*.

‡ During the last few years of his life, Mr. John Watson resided at No. 14, Regent street, where, after his death, his books and paintings were sold in 1829. Among the latter was a "View of Yarmouth Harbour," by Butcher. Probably this is as

They left an only son, the Rev. Fisher Watson,\* and an only daughter, who married Samuel Tolver, Esq.

In 1835 the above-mentioned house was purchased by William Travers Cox, Esq., M.D., who resided in it for some years. Subsequently a Corn hall was erected on a portion of the garden, having an entrance to it from *Regent* street. The house when sold by Dr. Cox was fitted up as a COMMERCIAL CLUB-HOUSE, but after a few years the club was broken up. The ground floor was occupied by the YOUNG MEN'S INSTITUTE, founded by the Rev. Henry Mackenzie (now Bishop Suffragan of Nottingham), then Incumbent of the Parish, and was formally opened in 1840 by Dr. Stanley, Bishop of Norwich, and here his distinguished son, the present Dean of Westminster, lectured. After a few years dissensions broke out and the Institute was remodelled; but it soon came to an end, and then this house was purchased and let as offices, one being occupied by the Electric International Telegraph Company.† On the plain, opposite this house, a flag staff was erected by government in 1860 for the purpose of displaying cautionary storm signals, according



interesting a picture as those in the Town hall. What has become of it? The arms borne by the Watsons of Yarmouth were—Barry of four *arg.* and *gu.*, three crescents *erm.*, on a chief *or.*, two tilting spears broken in saltire *gu.*; and for a crest, on a mount *vert.* a demi-dragon *ramp.*, being the same arms as the Watsons of Woolpit and Ringshall in Suffolk, except that the latter bore barry of six.

\* He was chosen one of the ministers of St. George's chapel in 1816, which preferment he resigned in 1821 on being presented to the Vicarage of Lancing near Shoreham. He married Louisa Sarah, daughter of Sir Edmund Lacon, Bart., by whom he had a numerous family. He now resides at Brighton.

† As soon as the railway from Yarmouth to Norwich was formed, the electric telegraph was laid down under the personal inspection of Mr. Cooke, and during the progress of the work he resided in Yarmouth. Cooke had been an officer in the Indian army. In 1837 he first met Professor Wheatstone, who was a native of Gloucester. They became partners, and took out a patent. Their respective claims to the merit of the invention were in 1841 referred to Sir Isambard Brunel and Professor Daniel, who decided that while Cooke stood alone as the person to whom the country was indebted for having practically introduced and carried out this wonderful invention, Wheatstone was the scientific man whose profound researches had been instrumental in bringing it to perfection. Wheatstone was knighted in 1868, and Cooke in 1869.

to the code first projected by the late Admiral Fitzroy.\* Close to the flag staff are two Russian guns, part of the spoils at the capture of Sebastopol; sent to the town by Lord Palmerston, when prime minister.

The adjoining house to the south was called Dobbs, and was in 1660 conveyed by Thomas Utber of Beccles to James King, merchant, whose son and heir, Henry King, in 1683 brought it into settlement on his marriage with Rebecca Atkin; and dying in 1694 devised it to his widow, who married Thomas Moore. She left it to her step-daughter, Eliza Moore, who married Robert Atkin; and from her the property descended to her eldest son and heir, Thomas Atkin, who sold it in 1738. The above-mentioned house was subsequently occupied by the Rev. Edward White (p. 365), who was one of the Ministers of St. George's chapel for nearly sixty years (1732 to 1791),† after whose death it became the property and residence of Thomas Ridge, surgeon, who in 1788 married Sarah, daughter of John Baker, merchant, and died in 1822, aged 61,‡ leaving daughters only, his only son having been drowned while bathing in the sea in 1811, aged 16.

Room No. 68 led from the *Quay to Howard Street*, and is now absorbed by *Regent Street*. Early in the 17th century there stood an old house

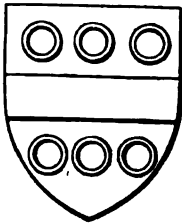
\* The Board of Trade being in daily, and indeed if necessary hourly, communication with all parts of the world by means of the electric telegraph, is able to collect information as to the state of the barometer, and the direction and force of the wind in various quarters; and can therefore give timely warning to our shipping to "look out for squalls."

† In 1783 the corporation, taking into consideration the then great age of Mr. White, and that he had for upwards of half a century constantly performed the duties of his office greatly to the satisfaction of the inhabitants, granted him an additional allowance of £50 a year to enable him to employ a curate. He held the small Rectories of Bayfield and Thrigby, and died in 1791, aged 85, "reverenced for his understanding and piety, and esteemed and beloved by all who knew him for his amiableness, cheerfulness, and benignity of manner." He was, says the *Norfolk Chronicle*, "an Israelite in whom there was no guile." The Rev. Henry Gostling White (second son of Dr. White, a physician at Bury) was born at Yarmouth in 1769. He graduated at Clare hall, Cambridge, and became a fellow of that college, and, after being curate at Eye, settled in London, where he died in 1846. There is an engraved portrait of him.

‡ His widow survived him and died in 1831, aged 71.

at the north-west corner belonging to Giles Call, who was bailiff in 1632, by whom it was sold to Thomas Lucas, merchant, who filled that office in 1658, and hence this row was called *Mr. Thomas Lucas' Row*.

LUCAS has been a name of long continuance in Yarmouth. Warren



Lucas was named one of the twenty-four jurats in the "articles" confirmed by Henry III., and he filled the office of bailiff in 1369. John Lucas was bailiff in 1636, and his pedigree was recorded in the *Herald's Visitation* for 1664, with his coat of arms—*arg.*, a fess *gu.* between six annulets *gu.*, being the arms borne by the present family of Lucas, of



whom we shall have occasion to speak; and he also used the annexed merchant's mark. He took an active part in municipal affairs, and on the breaking out of the civil war brought in money and plate for the use of the parliament.\* In 1647 he was at his own request dismissed from his place as alderman, "by reason of his bodily infirmities whereby he was unable to do any service for the town;" and Anthony Parmenter was elected in his stead.† He married Mary, daughter of Mr. Norgate of Aylsham, who bore *gu.*, two gauntlets in saltier *arg.* garnished *or.*, by whom he had a son, the first-named Thomas Lucas, who married Elizabeth, daughter of John Cooper, Esq. He followed in the political footsteps of his father, and on the death of Oliver Cromwell, being then one of the bailiffs he signed the address to Richard Cromwell, congratulating him on his accession to the Protectorate. He seems to have been a man of a hot temperament, and to have been at enmity with those who favored a restoration.‡ He left a son, Thomas Lucas, who in 1712

\* William Lucas was bailiff when Charles I. was beheaded.

† This is a name which has been of long continuance both in Yarmouth and in the county of Norfolk. Anthony Parmenter was a supporter of Brinsley, and signed the solemn league and covenant.

‡ In 1669 the corporation requested the churchwardens to command the beadle to stand at the stairs at the end of the aldermen's seat, and to forbid and hinder Mr. Lucas from coming into the aldermen's seat, and to keep him from coming up there. This odd request was in consequence of a violent dispute which continued between Mr. Thomas Lucas and the corporation for many years, until at last in 1678 a committee was appointed "to compose their differences."



sold the above-mentioned house to John Cooper, Esq., by whom it was devised to Anthony Cooper Gray, son of Andrew Gray.

The house at the south-west corner was the residence of Henry Gooch, Esq., who served the office of mayor in 1772. He was not of the old Yarmouth family of that name. His mother was Alice, daughter of Daniel Manning, second son of the Rev. William Manning (see p. 219.) He married a daughter of Mr. Killett of Gorleston. The above house had extensive premises at the back; and in front was a "great fore yard" or paved court. At the general election in 1774 the Hon. Richard Walpole and Mr. Charles Townshend came down for re-election, expecting to find no opposition, but on the morning of the nomination day Mr. Henry Gooch, then deputy-mayor, proposed Admiral Sir Charles Saunders, K.B., then residing at Gunton hall, and William Beckford, Esq.,\* then the tenant of Somerleyton hall; and although defeated he made a rather good fight for them.

It had been customary for the corporation to proceed to church every 30th of January, and to take part in the service appointed for that day, being the anniversary of the "Martyrdom of the Blessed King Charles I.;" and therein "to implore the mercy of God, that neither the guilt of that "sacred and innocent blood, nor those other sins by which God was "provoked to deliver up both us and our king into the hands of cruel and "unreasonable men, may at any time hereafter be visited upon us or our "posterity." It seems that Gooch when mayor abstained from this observance, for which he obtained the commendation of Syllas Neville, who in writing to Mr. R. Barber, says, "I was much pleased with the "account of the conduct of your mayor, Mr. Gooch, on the 30th of "January. I hope it proceeded from a conviction of the impiety and "absurdity of the usual observance of that day." It was a practice

\* He was a cousin of William Beckford of Fonthill celebrity. When a young man he travelled with Mr. Patrick Brydone, who was his preceptor and who addressed to him the letters of which his *Tour through Sicily and Malta* consists, and dedicated the work to him (third edition, 1775). Beckford afterwards settled in Jamaica, where he had a considerable estate. After a residence there of twelve years he returned to England and rented Somerleyton hall. He died of an apoplectic fit at the Earl of Effingham's house in Wimpole Street, London, in 1799. He wrote *Remarks upon the Negroes*, *A Description of Jamaica*, and a *History of France*. There is an engraved portrait of him.

among those who opposed monarchical government to dine, on the 30th of January, off calf's head, in derision of Charles I.; and afterwards to drink toasts to the memory of the regicide judges, and to those who had been instrumental in bringing about the commonwealth. Syllas Neville followed this observance of the day, as appears by several entries in his journal. Writing in 1770 he says, "Jan. 30.—This being the anniversary of the deserved death of Charles I., Messrs. Whitesides, Robert Barber, and John Bell dined with me on calf's head. Doubted whether Whitesides would come on this occasion as he is rather of what are called moderate principles. I gave the following, with other toasts, 'The majesty of the people of this nation,' and 'May the example of this day be followed on all like occasions.' Mr. Barber gave that generous friend of liberty, 'Thomas Hollis.' I made an observation that was much liked. It was that the two universities were like the government, very expensive and very useless. In the evening I let off some fireworks in the south garden and on the pond. The serpents ran well on the ice." Sykes, a portrait painter and picture dealer then in Yarmouth, was invited but was not present. He died a few months later at his lodgings in Yarmouth. This man is said to have enjoyed an hereditary pension of £100 a year, because his ancestor had been instrumental in effecting the escape of "the fellow up the tree," as Neville termed Charles II. Mr. Walker, Mr. Mayes, and Mr. Deverson\* were sometimes of these parties. The latter was a dealer in curiosities, and resided for some years in Yarmouth. "He is a republican," says Syllas Neville, "to his honor be it spoken." Being in Edinburgh in 1772, Neville says in a letter to Mr. Robert Barber of Yarmouth, "I ate calf's head with some friends on the 30th of January. Even in this country, inhospitable as it is

\* Mr. Thomas Deverson was collector of the salt duties, and died in 1785, aged 76. His "collection of shells, fossils, petrifications, and other curiosities" was purchased by Mr. Bartlett Gurney. He had a fine collection of medals. When Deverson's friends solicited the place for him, they were asked both by the then Duke of Grafton and (what is more surprising) by the Archbishop of Canterbury, "Has he a vote in the corporation?" "Church and State were then equally corrupt," says Syllas Neville. He was succeeded in his salt collectorship by Thomas Carman, who died in 1792, aged 71. The duty and the office are now abolished.

"thought to be to the principles of freedom, I hope the morning star of liberty begins to dawn. At a club held here to celebrate the anniversary of the revolution, toasts, which I could hardly have expected, were given."\* On another occasion he says "Yesterday being the anniversary of the death of the tyrant Charles I., celebrated it with some friends at a tavern, where I had previously ordered calf's head. We drank only champagne and elaret; the one representing the serum, and the other the red blood of the pretended martyr." On the other hand the Royalists at Yarmouth celebrated the anniversary of the Restoration by the appointed church service, and afterwards with public rejoicings. Bower the secret agent of the Government, at Yarmouth, in a letter to Secretary Williamson (remaining among the State papers) informed him that on the 29th of May, 1667, the "bailiffs, aldermen, and common council went to church in their gowns; horse and foot were drawn up who gave three volleys, answered by the guards; guns were fired from the battlements and forts, and Bailiff Thaxter invited Major Wyndham and his officers to dinner." Happily at the present time calves' heads are not put to such a disloyal use; and political state prayers are abolished. Mr. Gooch died in 1813 in very reduced circumstances; so much so that in 1800 he addressed a letter to the corporation stating that after having been a member of that body for more than forty years, and never having asked a favor, he now applied to be appointed parish clerk, "but if it were thought a disgrace that a justice of the peace should fill that station," then he would decline it, but would be thankful for something else.

During the latter part of the last century and the beginning of the present, the above-mentioned house was occupied by Mr. Samuel Bream;† hence this row was latterly called *Bream's Row*. He let what

\* "May all statesmen that would raise the king's prerogative upon the ruins of public liberty, meet the fate of Lord Strafford." "May all priests that would advance church power upon the belly of conscience go to the block like Archbishop Laud." "May all kings that would hearken to such statesmen and such priests have their heads chopt off like Charles I." These toasts were, it is said, composed by Hollis, of whom Syllas Neville was a great admirer.

† He was a man of considerable intelligence. In 1772 the corporation presented him with twenty guineas for a scheme to remove Yarmouth bar. Subsequently he

were then considered the best lodgings in the town. Consequently they were frequently occupied by the Port Admiral, or by the Admiral in command of the North-sea fleet. Sir Richard Onslow lodged there; as did also Admiral Lord Duncan.

The next house, which was also absorbed by *Regent Street*, was in 1773 in the occupation of Anthony Cooper Gray, Esq., and afterwards of Thomas Utting, Esq., who in 1775 sold it to Robert Cory, Esq., mayor in 1803. Between this house and the next there was formerly a row running from the *Quay to Blind Middle Street*, which was stopped up in 1761 and added to the adjoining house to the north. When *Regent Street* was made in 1813, the site of this old row was added to the adjoining house to the south, and now the north front of the *London and Provincial Bank* is built upon it.

*Plot No. 69* led from *Howard Street to King Street*, and was absorbed by *Regent Street*. On the south side, near the east end, stood an old house, which in the early part of the last century was the residence of the Rev. John Welham, of Caius College, Cambridge, who was one of the two first ministers appointed to St. George's Chapel, which preferment he resigned in 1724. He was also head master of the Grammar School.\* It was next occupied by Musgrove Heightington, Doctor of Music, who in 1733 was appointed organist of St. Nicholas' Church.† The next tenant was William Burton, Esq., M.D., who died in 1756, aged 53; and whose immediate ancestors played a distinguished part in local politics. He published a *Parody on Pope's Homer*, and other poems.

designed a bridge which was not adopted. An engraving of it, with a description, was given in the *Gentleman's Magazine*.

\* He was presented to the Rectory of Cantley, Norfolk, in 1720, by Sir Harbord Harbord; and held it for six years.

† He was an eminent musician and a member of the Gentlemen's Society at Spalding, as appears by the correspondence of Sir Martin Ffolkes, Bart., President of the Royal Society; and in 1738, on the anniversary of the society, the doctor, his wife, and son sung an ode. *Nichol's Lit. Anec.* 5, p. 11. It may here be mentioned that John Christian Mantel was appointed organist in 1748. He had been organist at the church of South Beerfleet near Rochester. "Poor blind Chicheley" was appointed in 1762. "He had the soul as well as the hand of a master;" and when placed before the instrument brought out the finest music in the most expressive manner.

Herman Burton was returned to parliament for the borough in 1312, when none but burgesses could be elected; but we hear no more of the name until the breaking out of the civil war, when WILLIAM BURTON came forward with money and plate in support of the parliament. So zealous was he that he contributed one of his "best spoons" and also "a silver bodkin;" and from that time took a leading part in municipal affairs. In 1647 he signed the solemn league and covenant; and in the following year he was one of the "Cannoniers," had charge of the great ordnance at the bridge, and kept a store of gunpowder at his own house. What could man do more to show his patriotism? In 1649 he was chosen an alderman in the place of George England, whose politics had not kept pace with the times, and who had therefore been dismissed; and in this the first year of the commonwealth, Burton was elected bailiff. The evil consequences of civil strife were then severely felt; and a petition was presented to parliament "acknowledging with thankfulness the great and unspeakable goodness of God in raising that honorable house to repair the breaches of many generations, and to recover our almost lost liberties and religion out of the hands of those that studied nothing more than to enslave both souls and bodies of the whole nation; but," say the petitioners, "our God, by you, hath broken the snare, and we are delivered, to praise his name who hath gathered together this honorable house, as so many choice arrows into his quiver to smite through the hearts and loins of his and his people's enemies, all along owning you, in your owning of him, his cause and people, having ever had a tender regard to your lowest estate, hath pulled down the mighty from their seats and exalted you. We, having now good cause to believe from what you have already done, that the good hand of God with you, will still lead you further to advance, and countenance piety, and to settle the foundations that were so much out of course, upon their true basis of righteousness, do humbly crave the boldness to present the sad condition of this poor town, yet under the miseries and depredations of war\* (whilst the land is at peace), unto your pious

\* Alluding to the depredations committed on their commerce at sea, by pirates who pretended to be royalists.



*Cory.*



“and serious consideration; the charge of the poor of this place through  
 “the enemies’ cruelty at sea, being increased far beyond the monthly  
 “taxations, and the inhabitants which bear both burdens thereby much  
 “more disenabled to bear either; and the charge of maintaining the  
 “piers, almost as much as either of the former, both counties of Norfolk  
 “and Suffolk having benefit thereby but not charged therewithall;  
 “which pressing more and more upon us by the daily increase of losses,  
 “makes us humbly pray that this honorable house would be pleased to  
 “take the premises into serious and speedy consideration, and to order  
 “us such an abatement of our proportion constantly charged upon us  
 “in the monthly rates of this county as shall seem to your honours both  
 “just and equal.” And then they prefer this modest request, “that you  
 “will be pleased to grant to us such a part of the lead and other useful  
 “materials of that vast and altogether useless cathedral in Norwich,  
 “towards the building of a workhouse to employ our almost starved  
 “poor, and repairing our piers, or otherwise as you shall think fit and  
 “sufficient.”\* The prayer was not granted; and in 1656 Burton was  
 sent to London with a petition to the lord protector setting forth the sad  
 condition of the town. He got no money; but Oliver granted him a  
 commission to raise 300 men with the rank of major; and found the  
 arms. In this year Cromwell endeavoured to consolidate his power by  
 means of a parliament, and great exertions were made throughout the  
 country to secure one favorable to the protector. Burton, who was  
 connected with Cromwell by the marriage of his son with the daughter  
 of General Desbrowe, † was returned for Yarmouth; and he was one of  
 seventy members who in the following year offered the crown to Oliver.

\* This petition is printed in *extenso* by Swinden, p. 473.

† John Desbrowe, a major-general and one of the protector’s lords, married Jane, sister of Oliver Cromwell. He, according to Gwillim, bore *arg.*, a fesse betw. three bears’ heads coupled *sa.*, muzzled *or.* Jane, daughter of Valentine Desbrowe, son of the general, married John Walford, and had a son, William Walford, who married Mary Bacon, and died in 1766, leaving William Walford his son, who married Anne Ruggles, by whom he had a son, the Rev. Wm. Walford of Terling in Essex, who married Sarah Tweed. Jane, only daughter of John Walford and Jane Desbrowe, married Robert Tweed of Halstead, Essex, and died in 1781, leaving a daughter Jane, who married J. B. Whalley, Esq., of Colchester, and had issue a daughter, Jane, who married the Rev. W. Polley of Boxsted Hall, Suffolk.



In 1659 Burton was again elected to the office of bailiff, but the master mind of Cromwell no longer guided the destinies of the nation; the reins of power were falling from the feeble hands of Richard, and a restoration began to be openly discussed. What must have been the feelings of Burton when, on the 23rd of May, 1660, he had to preside at an assembly of the corporation at which it was ordered that in case "the king's majesty" should happen to come into Yarmouth Roads with the Dukes of York and Gloucester, they should, with their retinue, be invited to accept such entertainment as could be afforded. The corporation determined to wait upon the king for this purpose on his majesty's coming near the town, arrayed in their official robes; and, on his landing, to accompany the king to Mr. Bailiff Burton's house, which was appointed for his majesty's reception, where the keys of the gates and all commissions held in the militia were to be delivered into the king's hands. The committee of bailiffs' assistants were also requested to devise some present for his majesty. These loyal demonstrations were unavailing as far as Burton was concerned, for an act of parliament was passed disabling him from exercising the functions of a bailiff; he was dismissed from the corporation and his name ordered to be defaced wherever it appeared.\* Being specially exempted from the act of indemnity he retired to Holland, where he is accused of having plotted with other exiles to bring about a counter revolution in England. In 1663 the government agent reported that Burton was then at Rotterdam, and in communication with malecontents in England. In 1666 Burton sent a petition to Charles II., in which he states that he conceived himself included in the proclamation for the return of certain persons to England, but being in debt, on public account, to hundreds of people at Yarmouth before the restoration, and being sued by some of them in 1661, was forced to retire into Holland, where he had continued ever since, merchandizing, but not interfering in the differences between the king and the Hollanders; that having come down to Ostend with Desbrowe to embark for England, was there informed that Lord Arlington had

\* See the engraving of the fragment of the Crowmer monument, mentioned at p. 205, which is still in St. Nicholas' Church, and upon which Burton's name has been nearly obliterated.

procured leave for his continuance at Rotterdam if he would pay £400, and that relying on this, and being unable to satisfy the demands of the Yarmouth people he had returned to Rotterdam, and now the time limited by the proclamation being over he begs a license to remain beyond seas, being ready to remove from Rotterdam to some place in amity with his majesty. Ultimately Burton returned to Yarmouth, where he died in 1673, aged 65, and was buried in St. Nicholas' church, and on his sepulchral stone appears—"He liv'd to Christ, he died in Christ, and must appeare with Christ; disturbe not then his dust." John Burton, his son, was returned to parliament for Yarmouth in 1701. He had married, as we have seen, Jane, daughter of General Desbrowe, Cromwell's brother-in-law. He died in 1703, and his widow in 1729, leaving the above-named William Burton, their only surviving son. They are all buried in St. Nicholas' church, as is also William Burton, Esq., son of William and Martha Burton, who died in 1689, aged 22, having married Sarah, daughter of Sir George England. On his sepulchral slab are his arms—quarterly 1st and 4th semée of estoiles, 2nd an eagle displayed; and for a crest, an eagle displayed.\* The last owner of the above-mentioned house was George Hurry, Esq., who purchased it in 1783, and died in 1797, aged 58.† His widow resided in it until her death in 1811, when the house was sold to the commissioners for making the new street, by whom it was taken down.

\* Another William Burton, an alderman of Yarmouth (but of a different family, for he bore *sa.*, a chev. betw. three owls *arg.*), died in 1686, aged 39. He was the son of the Rev. William Burton, by Elizabeth his wife, who died in 1682, aged 59; and who by her will gave to the town of Stalham £5 13s. 4d. for ever. The alderman and his mother are both buried in Stalham church. Amy Coates "twin born" with the former died in 1734, aged 88, "a woman of a generous spirit, remarkably charitable to the poor, whose praise is not of man but of God," as her epitaph informs us.

† He was the eighth and youngest son of Thomas Hurry, merchant; and in 1762 married Caroline, one of the two daughters and co-heirs of Francis Parson, merchant, "an agreeable young lady with a handsome fortune," as the *Norfolk Chronicle* informs us. They had an only child, Ellen, who married Thomas Wilkinson, Esq., of Oswald house and Brancepeth in Durham, and they had issue George Wilkinson, Esq., of Oswald house, born in 1809. John Parson filled the office of mayor in 1736. He was a solicitor.

**Regent Street** was formed by the Paving Commissioners appointed by an act of parliament, passed in 1809, intituled "*An act for better paving, lighting, cleansing, and watching the Town of Great Yarmouth in the County of Norfolk, and for removing nuisances and annoyances therein, and for making other improvements in the said Town,*" which authorized the making of one or more street or streets from the Quay not further north than Row No. 67. This was to prevent any injury to the traffic then existing through *Old Broad Row* and *Market Row*; and as a further protection to the owners of property there, no shop or public house was to be permitted. If these considerations had not prevailed, the proper site for the first new street would have been from the Quay opposite the *Southtown Bridge* direct to the *Market Place*.\* *Regent Street* is not straight, but follows the curve which, as already mentioned, may be observed in many of the rows. This street was formally opened to the public on the 29th of September, 1813, by Jacob Preston, Esq., the then new-elected mayor, on his way from St. Nicholas' church to the Town hall, it being the custom in those days for the mayor who had been elected on the Feast day of the Decollation of St. John the Baptist to be sworn into office at the Guild hall on the Feast of St. Michael, and after attending divine service at the Parish church to proceed in procession, accompanied by the members of the corporation and preceded by a band and colours and all the insignia of office, to the Town hall, there to preside at the "mayor's feast," the day being concluded by squibs and fireworks on the quay by the populace.

On the north side of Regent street was the entrance to the Corn Exchange, already mentioned, erected in 1842, from a design by Brown. The building was used for its intended purpose for several years, until the buyers and sellers of corn reverted to the old custom of an open-air meeting. In early times they assembled at the *Market Cross*; and after that in front of the *Angel Inn*. They next removed to the quay opposite

\* In 1866 a proposal was submitted to the town council for making a second street from the Quay to *King Street*, by demolishing the houses between Rows No. 129 and 130, the opening thus obtained being continued eastward by St. Peter's road, and forming a continuous street from the river to the sea; but the project was rejected on account of the expense.

the *Star Hotel*, and lastly assembled in front of the *Duke's Head* ;\* at the back of which hotel a new Corn hall, having an entrance to Howard street, has been erected by Mr. J. Davey, the proprietor of the *Duke's Head*, which hall, designed by Mr. J. W. Pearce of Norwich, was opened for business in 1871.

The Corn hall, adjoining Regent street, was purchased by government in 1870, and converted into a Post Office ; and has now a lofty front next Regent street, designed by Mr. Williams, the government surveyor.† In this building provision has been made for the Telegraph and Savings-Bank Departments, and rooms provided for the Officers of the Inland Revenue. The Corn hall remains in its original state, except being divided for the convenience of business. Since the removal of the post office from Row No. 63, the postmasters have been David Hogarth, Jun., who died in 1862, aged 68 ; John Stuart Coxen, died in 1863, aged 32 ; Charles C. Newcombe, died in 1868, aged 49 ; and C. William Richard Geake. For a long period the official salary was very small, the postmaster being obliged to make it up by "pickings." In 1667 he was allowed only £30 a year, and was expected "to pay all "expenses, and keep a couple of horses to ride the stage three times a "week in all weathers and hours, and to sit up and receive letters, "burning coals and candles." Truly, said Bower, the government spy, the place was "unfit for any but those who were unfit, and were tempted

\* Among those who constantly attended the Yarmouth Corn Market, in the latter part of the last century, was Edward Kerrison, the only son of Matthias Kerrison, Esq., of Bungay, a large seller of corn, who was sent here by his father to act as his agent. Disgusted with a life so unsuited to his inclinations he enlisted as a private soldier. A Cornetcy in the 6th Dragoon Guards was soon afterwards purchased for him ; he was rapidly promoted ; and his gallant services in the Peninsula as Colonel of the 7th Hussars are matters of history. He succeeded to the great wealth of his father ; was created a baronet ; and died in 1853, aged 78, a General in the army, and Colonel of the 14th Light Dragoons. Matthias Kerrison, the father, was for many years a haven commissioner, and constant in his attendance. He died in 1827, aged 85. There is an engraved portrait of him. Sir Edward Kerrison was presented with the freedom of the borough. There is a portrait of him by Shree ; and he is the subject of one of Dighton's engravings.

† A critic having asked what order of architecture was intended to be represented on the capitals of the pilasters in front, was told the "Post office order."

in the postage to make up the salary." When in that year John Baala, pulley master, was appointed, Bower says he would have applied for it himself "had he thought it just to undermine him who had it;" but if it were to become vacant, he asks Lord Arlington for it, telling his lordship that he had put his own wife into a coffee shop, "to obtain intelligence" to communicate to the minister. Some account of the rise and progress of the Post Office at Great Yarmouth has already been given (p. 338), but of late years the increase of business has been very rapid. The editor has the authority of the present energetic post-master for stating that the number of letters, &c., which passed through it in the year 1871 was about 4,170,000; the money-order transactions 51,180; the revenue from stamps sold £6,213 9s.; and savings-bank transactions 3,460. There are two branch telegraph offices, five receiving offices (at two of which money orders and savings-bank business can be transacted), and twelve pillar and wall boxes. The number of persons employed is forty.

At the south-east corner of Regent street is a house which, when that street was formed, was in the occupation of Mr. Coleman, woollen draper. It was subsequently purchased by Mr. S. C. Marsh, who established the business of a wine and spirit merchant, under the firm of Marsh and Barnes, and shortly before his death sold the property to Messrs. Seaman, Grimmer, and Co., the present owners.

At No. 23 is the office of the distributor of stamps. The raising a public revenue by requiring all legal documents to be impressed with a government stamp was introduced into this country in the reign of William and Mary, in imitation of a similar impost which had previously existed in Holland. In every considerable town an officer was appointed whose duty it was to distribute such stamps as were required, on being paid for the same. Mr. John Hurry filled this office in 1781; and was succeeded by Mr. Thomas Symonds, who had his place of business in the Market row, and died in 1806, aged 48. He was followed by Mr. Nathaniel Palmer, who had a house on the north side of Regent street, with an office in Row No. 66.\* On the next vacancy in 1824

\* He died in 1825, aged 58. He had been a shipbuilder, and launched several sloops of war for the use of the royal navy. Sarah his widow, daughter of Robert

Mr. James Hurry Palmer was appointed, and held this office till his death in 1857, aged 69,\* when he was succeeded by his son, Mr. Daniel Bly Palmer. At the same place (No. 23) is the office of the *Great Yarmouth Amicable Shipping Insurance Association*, supported by ship-owners upon the mutual principle.†

At the south-west corner of Regent street is a house which was erected in 1765 by John Cotman, Esq., of whose family we shall have occasion to speak. He devised it to his son-in-law, James Turner, Esq., (see p. 305). It was afterwards the property of Travel Fuller, "one of the people called quakers," who died in 1795, leaving "a character as an honest man worthy of imitation," says the *Norwich Gazette*.‡ In 1827 this property was purchased by T. F. Steward, Esq., who sold it in 1835 to the East of England Joint-Stock Banking Company, who altered the premises for the purposes of their business and erected the north front. After the disastrous stoppage of that company in 1864, the property passed to the London and Provincial Bank (limited).

Room No. 70 is at the back of the houses fronting *Regent Street*, between *Howard Street* and *King Street*.

Barrett, died in 1852, aged 84. They had two children. (1) Nathaniel Palmer who was called to the bar in 1827, and in 1836 was appointed Judge of the Norwich Court of Record and Recorder of Great Yarmouth. In 1819 he was presented with a piece of plate of the value of 100 guineas for his electioneering services in the liberal interest. (2) Edmund Reeve Palmer who died in 1863, aged 64, leaving an only surviving child, Ellen, who married the Rev. Francis Conway Steward, Rector of Runham. Mr. E. R. Palmer was an Alderman of the Borough and Registrar of the County Court.

\* Mary, his widow, daughter of Thomas Fryer Garwood, died in 1870, aged 81.

† Marine Insurances were known in Queen Elizabeth's reign, for we find Lord Keeper Bacon, in opening her first parliament in 1558, saying, "Doth not the wise merchant in every adventure of danger, give part to have the rest assured." Ives, sen., in his diary, mentions instances of his father underwriting risks on his neighbour's vessels. A Mercantile Marine "Insurance Society," upon the mutual principle, was established at Yarmouth in the last century, but at what precise date cannot be stated, as there are no records of it. In 1797 this society met at the *Black Swan* for the transaction of business, and a book commencing at that time mentions the payment of many losses occasioned by the capture of Yarmouth vessels by French privateers.

‡ Travel Fuller, in 1797, married Phoebe, daughter of Isaac Sharpless of Hitchin, "a young lady with a fortune of £15,000," said the same paper.

Row No. 71 is at the back of the houses facing *Regent Street*, between the *Quay* and *Howard Street*. At the north-west corner of this row is a house formerly the property of Nathaniel Symonds, merchant, who died in 1793, aged 69. He was the son of Joseph Symonds (by Jane Jordan his wife), who was a son of Nathaniel Symonds and Mary Harper his wife. The first-named Nathaniel Symonds, by Mary Witton his wife, had a son, Nathaniel Symonds, whose portrait hangs in the Nelson room at the *Star Hotel*. He died in 1808, aged 54. By Mary Warner of Chelmsford, his first wife, he had a son, Nathaniel Warner Symonds, with whom this branch of the family became extinct. The above-mentioned house was afterwards occupied by Mr. Boardman, cornfactor.\*

At the south-west corner is a large house, now divided, which for many years, in the early part of the present century, was occupied by Robert Cubitt, plumber and glazier. It was in respect of a mortgage upon this house that the right of the corporation to ESCHEATS was raised in 1857, in a suit entitled *Thompson v. Tolver*.† The accounts of the chamberlains prove that from a very early period they debited themselves with monies received as escheats from aliens, pirates, bastards, felons, and persons unknown or dying within the borough without heirs. Among goods taken possession of and not claimed within a year and a day, we find in 1586 "a cope of velvet" which sold for 30s., and in

\* Boardmen were persons allowed to occupy a *bord* or cottage with a small parcel of land on the borders of a manor, on condition of supplying the lord with poultry, eggs, and such small things. Some however were required to perform the disagreeable duties of an executioner or hangman.

† A mortgage of the house above-mentioned had become vested in Mr. Samuel Tolver as the legal personal representative of a testator who had bequeathed £500 to a natural daughter after the death of her mother, but which legatee had died unmarried and under the age of 21 years in her mother's life time. On the death of the latter in 1852, the town clerk claimed the money on behalf of the town council, alleging that under the charters of Charles II. and Queen Anne, or by prescriptive right, they were entitled to it as *bona vacantia* within the borough. A case having been submitted to the Attorney General (Sir Richard Bethell, afterwards Lord Westbury) and the Solicitor General (Sir Henry Keatinge), they advised the crown not to contest the right; and a limited administration having been granted to Thomas Thompson, as the nominee of the town council, a bill in chancery in his name was filed, the result of which was that the money was obtained for the town.

1592 "certain apparel" which fetched £4 19s. In 1595 there escheated to the town, "without challenge of any proprietary, one gray nagge" worth 30s. In 1599 the corporation took the goods of one John Hilton, executed in London for piracy. In 1604 the value of goods seized from pirates amounted to £48 12s. 5d. In 1613 "certain goods being clothes blown up in Richard Taylor's ship" were seized; and in 1615 the goods escheating from pirates brought in £83 17s. In 1681 the corporation took possession of a house in *Middle* street as having escheated to them; and in 1714 they seized and sold a house which had "escheated to the town for want of heirs." The corporation claimed and took the goods and chattels of all persons dying *felo-de-se*, but they frequently gave up the same to the family of the deceased, as they did to the sisters of Samuel Berryman in 1648.

*Plot No. 72 from Hall Quay to Howard Street.* At the north-west corner is a house which in the early part of the last century was the property of William Haynes, who here pursued the then flourishing trade of a peruke maker.\* In 1759 he conveyed this property to

\* Wigs were then in general use; but in 1765 the peruke makers petitioned the king, setting forth the distress to which they were reduced by the decline of trade "occasioned by the preposterous fashion then introduced of men wearing their own hair!" and they prayed for relief. In ridicule of this petition another was drawn up, purporting to come from the carpenters, praying his majesty to set the fashion of using a wooden leg! During his mayoralty in 1795, Mr. Taylor issued a handbill urging the "disuse of hair powder," by which means a great quantity of wheat, in that season of scarcity, might be saved to the nation; and as "appearances" ought to be sacrificed to the public want, recommended the military to set the example. It was calculated that every soldier consumed one lb. of flour per week in powdering his head, and in 1795 an order was issued in Norwich to discontinue its use *except when on duty*. Fancy the absurdity of a man powdering his head to enable him to go upon guard or march against an enemy!

The following "standing order," extracted from a *M.S. General Order Book*, sounds very strange at the present day:—

Queen Charlotte at Sea, 2nd February, 1800.

Parliament having thought proper to exempt officers under certain ranks from the tax imposed on wearing hair powder, implies that powder was understood to be part of an officer's dress. It is therefore directed that all officers on duty wear hair powder, except at sea or in bad weather; and they are not on any account to go on shore in foreign parts without that article of dress, the want of which gives serious



Samuel Moore, whitesmith, who died in 1764, leaving it to his son, Samuel Moore, who dying in 1815 left it to his son, the late Samuel Velzi Moore, anchor smith. Families named More, Moor, or Moore have been of long continuance in Yarmouth. Nicholas Moore was one of the committee who in 1491 drew up the new ordinances for the government of the borough. Simon Moore took a leading part in municipal affairs, and served the office of bailiff in 1541, 1548, and 1561. In his second year of office two important events occurred, namely, the cutting of the sixth haven and the destruction of those works by the insurgents under Kett. "Cunningly unawares," as Manship says, "they surprised the two bailiffs" (William Bishop and Simon Moore), and conveyed them to their camp at Mousehold, from which the bailiffs soon afterwards escaped, and having reached the town they fortified it against the rebels; for which service they were commended by the Lord Protector Somerset and the privy council.\* In 1554 Abraham Ellys conveyed to Simon Moore a garden and a cartilage called *le Glotton*, the site of which is not known. He was in 1553 one of those selected to ride to Kenninghall to see "the Lady

offence to the inhabitants, and has occasioned great danger to some of his majesty's officers in the streets of Naples and Palermo.

By command of the vice-admiral to the respective captains.

#### A. TOD.

In 1808 pigtails, which up to that time had been worn in the army, were ordered to be cut off, to the great delight of the soldiers. The disuse of powder was accelerated by the tax put upon it; and in 1869, when worn only by serving men, the tax was abolished.

\* The Yarmouth bailiffs were better off than the Mayor of Norwich who was also taken prisoner and detained for a considerable time by the insurgents, who thereupon, with a grim kind of humour, issued a proclamation, stating that such was their store of fish they had a *cod's* head and shoulders to dispose of for one half-penny—the unhappy mayor's name being *Codd*; and when the Yarmouth bailiffs were also prisoners, they boasted having a *Bishop* in their camp, and even *More*. Lord Sheffield was killed in the streets of Norwich when contesting with the insurgents. His son, being a minor and ward of the king, was, says Strype, as a particular mark of favor in consideration of his father's services, allowed "to bestow himself in marriage at his own free election and choice, without any fine or payments." The evil consequences of the privilege of wardship in forcing ill-assorted marriages, was one of the grievances which parliament was called upon to suppress.

Mary's Grace;" and to report to the corporation whether it were safe to proclaim her queen. In 1555 he obtained a feoffment of one of the Lazar houses out of the north gate; and in 1558 it was agreed in council that he should have the Barge house, provided he built a chapel for the Lazar house.

The house standing between Rows No. 72 and 73 was in 1750 the property of Mr. John Fowler, and sold by the executors of his will in 1790 to Mr. John Eager,\* who in 1805 conveyed it to Mr. Samuel Crowther, who died in 1841. It is now occupied by the Free Press Company as an office for their paper, the *Independent*.

The first daily newspaper published in England was the *Daily Courant*, which appeared on the accession of Queen Anne. A *Perfect Diurnal* had been however published for a short time in 1660, but it consisted exclusively of the orders of parliament and notices of bills and petitions, resembling in its contents the ordinary diurnals of the civil war. In 1649 a newspaper called the *Impartiall Intelligencer* was started, but it was not a daily one. The first advertisement appeared in what was the first of English periodicals, the *Weekly News* of Nathaniel Butler. This paper also contained the first engraved illustration of the text. The *Daily Courant* was at first printed on one side of a small sheet of paper, leaving the other side plain; which however it was soon discovered it would be profitable to fill with advertisements.

The first newspaper published in Norfolk was the *Norwich Postman*, from which sprung the *Norwich Mercury*. The former was printed on a small sheet of four pages; and is believed to have first appeared in 1697.† This paper was enlarged in 1707 to eight pages 4to, of two columns each; but in 1725 in consequence of the stamp duty the size was reduced to demy quarto of four pages. In 1706 another newspaper was

\* He was a teacher of music, and kept what is termed a music warehouse. His son, the organist, has already been mentioned (*ante* p. 215). The latter died in 1863, aged 70, and was consequently only eleven years of age when he attracted the notice of the Duke of Dorset.

† Anthony de Solen, "a stranger from the Low Countries," introduced printing into Norwich in 1670. Francis Burgess in 1701 published his *Observations on the Noble Art of Printing*, an 8vo. of seventeen pages; being the first book ever printed at Norwich. He died in 1706, aged 30.

printed at Norwich called the *Yarmouth Gazette* or *Loyal Packet*, which soon merged into the *Norwich Gazette* and the *Loyal Packet*; and ultimately became the *Norfolk Chronicle*. It was printed by Henry Cosgrove at his house near St. Giles' Gate, at first on a small sheet of four pages in double columns, and was headed by the arms of the city on one side, and those of Yarmouth on the other.\* Cosgrove was assisted by Edward Cave who, under the name of Sylvanus Urban, established the *Gentleman's Magazine* in 1731. The *Weekly Mercury* or *Protestant Packet* was first published by William Case, bookseller in Cockey lane, now London street, Norwich, in 1721. It was printed on two sheets of pot folio, embellished at the top with a ship on one side, and a newsman blowing a horn on the other. In 1726 the title was changed to that of the *Norwich Mercury*, which it has ever since retained. It became the supporter of Townshend and Walpole, the then recognised leaders of the whigs; and has ever since steadily adhered to the same political party. William Case, son of the former proprietor, sold the *Norwich Mercury* to Mr. Richard Bacon, a native of Yarmouth, who had settled in Norwich.†

JOHN BACON filled the office of Bailiff of Yarmouth in 1573; and also represented the borough in parliament. Arthur Bacon took an active part when the civil war broke out; siding with parliament and subscribing to the national league and covenant. When, in 1648, parliament agreed not to send a garrison into the town, if the inhabitants would raise among themselves sufficient forces for its defence, the trained bands were augmented by an additional company of which Bacon was appointed captain (*Swinden* p. 572). At the restoration he was named in the charter granted by Charles II., and filled the office of bailiff in 1662; and in 1675 he gave £50 to the Children's hospital. John Bacon of Yarmouth married Frances Turner, and voted at the

\* It was intended to be a Yarmouth paper as well as a Norwich one. A copy for 13 April, 1717, No. 549, vol. xi., with a sight of which the editor has been favoured, is so widely printed that there are not above 150 words in a column.

† A copy dated 29 July, 1727, which is still preserved, is headed by an engraved view of the city; above which on one side are the arms of Norwich and of the Diocese; and on the other the shield of St. George and a representation of St. George and the Dragon; and above the name is the motto *Fama volat*.

contested election for Norfolk in 1715 in favor of Astley and De Grey. They had a son, the above-named Richard Bacon, born in 1745, who was admitted a freeman in 1782, and who in his "Burgess Letter," which is still preserved, is described as "late the apprentice of John Hurry." In the Yarmouth Poll-book for 1795 he is entered as of the city of Norwich, "printer;" and his vote is recorded for Stephens Howe, Esq. He died in 1812; and by Katherine his wife, daughter of the Rev. John Kirkby of Trowse, left a son, Richard Mackenzie Bacon, for many years the able editor of the *Norwich Mercury*. He was educated at the Norwich Grammar School, then under the head-mastership of Dr. Forster; where at 17 he became the head boy, and was "Orator" in 1782.\* In the course of a few years the ability with which the leading articles in the *Norwich Mercury* were written, attracted attention to that paper. Mr. R. M. Bacon also became a very prolific author; but the limits of the present work will not permit of an enumeration of the productions of his pen. He was the promoter and editor of the *Musical Review*, the author of the *Elements of Vocal Science*, and of numerous essays and articles, principally on music and agriculture, contributed to periodical publications. He invented a rotatory printing machine, and in conjunction with the late Mr. Bryant, C.E., took out a patent, and one was set to work at Cambridge.† Although never largely brought into use, it led the way to the improvements of Applegarth and others.‡ Mr. R. M. Bacon was Major-Commandant of the Norwich Rifle Corps during and to the end of the "old war;" by whose members he was presented with a valuable sword and two handsome silver goblets. He also, in 1841, received from the Liberal party

\* Mr. R. M. Bacon was born "before his father took up his freedom," and was therefore not in strictness the son of a *Freeman*; but a special order of assembly was made under which he was notwithstanding admitted to the freedom of the borough.

† An engraving and description of this machine will be found in Rees' *Encyclopædia*.

‡ It is related that when Koenig, who had perfected a printing machine for the *Times*, first saw the rotatory one at work at Donkin's factory, he burst into tears, saying he was a ruined man. It was not long before the *Times* machine became a rotatory one; since which the art of newspaper printing has attained to the greatest perfection in the *Walter* machine, now used by the *Times* newspaper.

at Norwich, the gift of an epergne and silver service in acknowledgment of his services. He died in 1844, in his 69th year. He married in 1797 Louisa Mary, daughter of Mr. Augustine Noverre of London (afterwards of Norwich), and niece of the Chevalier George John Noverre, Maitre de Ballet at the courts of Paris and Vienna, the friend of Mozart and Garrick, whose introduction in London, according to Fitzgerald's *Life of Garrick*, gave great offence to a prejudiced portion of the audience. Mr. Richard Noverre Bacon, their eldest son, who had for many years been sub-editor, became at his father's death sole proprietor of the *Norwich Mercury*, which at the commencement of the Crimean war in 1854 was made a bi-weekly paper.\* He is the author of several publications, especially a *Report on Norfolk Agriculture*, which won the prize offered by the "Royal Agricultural Society of England" in 1844. He also designed the monument at Holkham, in memory of the late Earl of Leicester.† At the close of 1871 Mr. R. N. Bacon, having been joined by gentlemen of business influence, retired from active work, and took up his residence in Yarmouth, retaining however a considerable interest in the *Mercury and Journal*, which still advocate the same political views they have always maintained.

The first newspaper printed in Yarmouth was called the *Yarmouth Herald*; and was published in 1804 by Black (*ante*. p. 347), who afterwards was engaged as a writer for the *Norwich Mercury*. Its poetical prologue commenced with—

"Ye who are inclined to read,  
 "To the '*Herald*' give good heed;  
 "Whether you are gay or grave,  
 "Whether on the land or wave,  
 "In its columns you will find  
 "Something that will suit your mind;"

and so on for many verses, setting forth the topics upon which the paper intended to treat.

\* In 1864 Mr. R. N. Bacon first published the *People's Weekly Journal*, designed especially for the working classes; and it gradually attained the largest circulation among them, which any newspaper in Norfolk or Suffolk had ever reached.

† Mr. Donthorn was the architect employed; but that the design had originated with Mr. Bacon was fully proved to and acknowledged by the committee at their last meeting; the proceedings of which are published.

The reduction of the stamp duty on newspapers in 1836 from 4d. to 1d., led to the establishment of local papers in many places where none had previously existed. At Yarmouth a Joint Stock Company was formed, called the *Free Press* Company, which started a weekly paper under that name, subsequently changed to the *Independent*; since which period several other weekly papers have from time to time been published with varied success.

Row No. 74 from *Howard Street* to *King Street*,\* anciently called *Fassett's Row*. At the north-east corner of this row, and occupying the space between it and Row No. 73, is a large house (now divided into two occupations), which in the latter part of the last and beginning of the present century was the property and residence of Samuel Barker, Esq. While filling the office of mayor (to which he was elected in 1800), Mr. Barker had the honor of entertaining at dinner in this house Lord Nelson, on his landing in England for the first time after the battle of the Nile. Nelson was not unmindful of the attentions which on this occasion were paid him at Yarmouth, and when his flag was flying on board the *St. George* in Kiöge bay, he, on the 27th of April, 1801, addressed the following letter to Mr. Barker.

"My dear Sir,—I feel truly sensible of your kind congratulations  
 "on the success of his majesty's arms. The zeal and spirit of the navy  
 "I never saw higher than in this fleet. The French have always, in  
 "ridicule, called us a nation of shopkeepers; so I hope we shall always  
 "remain, and, like other shopkeepers, if our goods are better than  
 "those of any other country, and we can afford to sell them cheaper, we  
 "may depend upon our shop being well resorted to. If I land at  
 "Yarmouth I shall most assuredly pay my personal respects to you,  
 "not only as a gentleman who has shown me great civilities, but also  
 "as the chief magistrate of a borough of which I have the honor to be  
 "a freeman. I beg you will have the goodness to present my best  
 "respects and good wishes to every individual of the corporate body."

\* This Row and Row No. 75 divide Regent ward from St. George's ward. The division is carried from Row No. 74 to Dene side, and thence down St. George's road and the end of York road to the sea; and from Row No. 75 across Hall quay to the river. This was the north boundary of the second south mid. ward.

Two months later, in a letter to Mr. Commissioner Ball, he says "you will be sorry to hear that I have been at death's door, apparently in a consumption. I have now rallied a little; but the disorder is in itself so flattering that I know not whether I am really better, and no one will tell me." Becoming worse, Nelson resigned his command, and on the 1st of July, 1801, landed at the jetty from the *Kitt* gunbrig, and after remaining in the town for a short time he proceeded to Merton, from which place he again wrote to Mr. Barker, saying, "I never shall forget all your goodness to me; and if ever I am placed in a situation to show my gratitude, I trust I shall not be found wanting."\*

In the 17th century the site of the above-mentioned house was occupied by a messuage the property and residence of Roger Thompson, beer brewer, who had purchased the same partly of Mitchell Mew and partly of Elizabeth Cobb, daughter of Philip Palmer of Acle. In 1702 he settled the property upon his son, Roger Thompson, on the occasion of his marriage with Mary, daughter of John Curtis of Aylsham.† He became an alderman, and a freeholder for Norfolk, voting in 1714 for Hare and Earle, and died in 1726, aged 54, when the property devolved on his son, Roger Thompson, who left an only child, Mary Bouell, who married John Dodd, and died in 1766, aged 34. In 1779 the above-mentioned property was purchased by Samuel Barker, Esq., who probably rebuilt the house, in which he continued to reside until his death in 1812. He was the son of Samuel Barker of Lowestoft, an eminent merchant, and "a great friend of the poor," descended from a family long resident in that town. In 1643 Sir Edward Barker was, with others, taken prisoner at Lowestoft by Oliver Cromwell and carried to Somerleyton. John Barker, fishing merchant, was a great sufferer by an extensive fire which occurred at Lowestoft in 1644. John Barker, brother of the above-named Samuel Barker of Lowestoft, was one of the

\* In acknowledgment of the hospitality rendered by Mr. Barker to naval officers, Captain Hardy sent him a present of a very beautifully-carved model of the admiral's barge, manned by the jolly tars of that day with their pigtails complete, Nelson himself being seated with an officer at the stern. This model was much prized by Mr. Barker, and on his death he bequeathed it to his eldest son.

† There was a good family in Suffolk of this name who bore paly of eight *az.* and *or.*, a fess cheque *az.* and *or.* See *ante*. p. 218.

elder brethren of the Trinity house and a director of Greenwich hospital. He died in London in 1787, aged 80, and his body was brought to Lowestoft and, after lying in state, was buried with much funereal pomp, he having left by his will £500 for the purpose of erecting a mausoleum and £1,000 to be invested for keeping the same in repair.\* Elizabeth, his wife, died in 1755, aged 48. She bore *arg.*, three piles engrailed *sa.*, with three crosses fitchy, one on each. Another brother, Robert Barker (brewer), was the father of the Rev. William Bell Barker, Rector of Frostenden and Rushmere in Suffolk. Jane, their sister, married John Moxon of Yarmouth. Samuel Barker, who settled in Yarmouth, before the purchase of the above house resided in the Market place. He was much liked by the naval and military officers, by whom towards the close of the century the town was crowded; and he himself commanded a company of volunteers.† He married a daughter of Mr. S. Lewis, C. C. man, by whom he had two sons and one daughter. Samuel Laney Barker, the eldest son, took holy orders;‡ and was killed in the streets of London by being run over by a cab. He married Jane, daughter of Samuel Ray, Esq., of Tannington, Suffolk.§ John Barker, the second son, resided for many years at

\* He is said to have distributed for many years previous to his death £250 annually among poor and infirm sailors, their widows and children. There is a portrait of him by Sir Joshua Reynolds, which has been engraved. It represents this worthy seated, with a self-satisfied and jovial air, at a table upon which is displayed a map, and in the back ground is an entrance to a harbour. This picture was long in the possession of Mr. John Barker of Norwich.

† On Michaelmas day, when Captain Barker was inaugurated as mayor, his company of volunteers had a dinner provided for them in the Hall parlour; and when a sufficient number of guests had left the assembly room where the principal dinner was given, the volunteers marched into it, proceeded by their band, "and caroused till three or four o'clock in the morning."

‡ In 1815 he published a few copies, for private distribution, of two sermons preached by him, the first on the occasion of the National Jubilee, which he dedicated "In remembrance of the splendid triumphs and numerous virtues, and as a grateful record for personal condescension, to the pious and glorious memory of that immortal hero, Lord Viscount Nelson;" the other on the day appointed for a general thanksgiving in 1814, which he dedicated to Lord Liverpool; adding a poem "On the Worship and Majesty of the Godhead, and the coming Judgment."

§ She died in 1820, aged 27. Her portrait by Davis is engraved.



Norwich, where he was killed in 1855 by being violently ran against



by a footman in a dark night. Elizabeth, the only daughter, married William Palgrave, Esq., collector of customs, of whom mention will be made in another place. Nelson, in writing to Mr. Barker in 1801, says, "I beg my respects to Mrs. Palgrave." The arms borne by this family of Barker were—Barry of ten *or.* and *sa.*, over all a bend *gu.* Motto—*In celo*

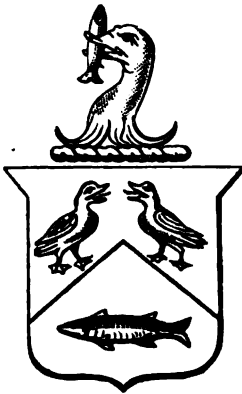
*quies.* The family is now extinct both in Yarmouth and Lowestoft.

Mr. C. W. Beart, wine merchant, subsequently occupied this house until 1831, when it was purchased by Mr. Simon Cobb, who filled the office of mayor in 1838, and resided there till his death in 1849, after which the house was sold and divided.\*

Different families of the name of Cobb have lived in Yarmouth from an early period. On the breaking out of the civil war, Jeffery Cobbe contributed nineteen pieces of plate; and in 1648 he signed the solemn league and covenant. In 1648 he was sent to General Lord Fairfax, then at Colchester, "with a letter containing reasons why the town should not be made a garrison." Alderman Cobbe made so spirited a remonstrance that the general sent him to the committee then sitting at Darby house, London, with a letter recommending that no forces should be sent to Yarmouth, "least thereby some great inconveniency and disturbance should arise in that town." In the following year he was sent to the committee of indemnity with all the letters and papers between the town and the lord general and the committee of Darby house, which documents were never returned. The name is also found in Norfolk. *Cobb* is a word of many meanings; among others it signifies a young fish, as a herring-cob. William Cobb, grandson of William Cobb of Sandringham, Norfolk, died *circa* 1493. William, his eldest son, was the ancestor of the Cobbs of Gayton. Jeffery, the second son, was father of Peter Cobb of Peterbridge, Norfolk, whose son, Stephen, became a citizen and haberhasher in London, and died *circa* 1566,

\* He was the proprietor of a large tannery, which then stood on the Denes out of the Market gate. He was a man of considerable energy and a fluent speaker. He was one of the first councillors chosen after the passing of the *Municipal Corporation Act*; and was also among the first magistrates appointed by Lord Chancellor Brougham.

leaving issue. Geoffrey Cobb of Sandringham, about the year 1686, sold that estate (now possessed by the Prince of Wales) to Sir Edmund Atkins, Knt., of Feltwell, Norfolk. Edmund, third son of Jeffery Cobb last-named, was seated at Snettisham, Norfolk, and was the common ancestor of the Cobbs of Norwich, Lynn, Burnham-Norton, Burnham-Deepdale, and Caister. Edmund Cobb of Snettisham was collector of customs at Wisbech, and died in 1753, aged 53, leaving an only child, Mary, who married Robert Foster, Esq., of Newark in Nottinghamshire. Edmund Cobb, son of Edmund Cobb of East Somerton, who died in 1585, had a son, John Cobb of Somerton, and a daughter, Frances, who married Thomas Wagman of Yarmouth, merchant. The Cobbs of Caister and Yarmouth were a branch of the Snettisham family, for Martin Cobb of Burnham-Norton, by his will made in 1680, gave a legacy to his kinsman, Martin Cobb, son of Thomas Cobb of Great Yarmouth; and in 1682 Elizabeth Cobb of Norwich, widow, desired by her will to be buried in her then late husband's grave in the chancel of the church of Caister next Yarmouth.\*



\* The Cobbs of Sandringham bore *sa.*, a chev. *arg.* between three cod-fish naiant *or.*, a chief of the last. The Cobbs of Snettisham bore party per chev. *sa.* and *arg.*, in chief two sea-cobs respecting each other, and in base a herring naiant *or.* The Cobbs of Wisbech bore *gu.*, a chev. *sa.*, in chief two ducks vis-a-vis *or.*, in base a fish naiant *arg.* Another coat is *sa.*, two swans in chief *ppr.* respecting each other, and in base a herring *or.*; and the Yarmouth family appear to have borne party per chev. *gu.* and *sa.*, in chief two ducks regarding each other, and in base a herring naiant *arg.*; and for a crest, a duck's head *or.*, holding in its beak a herring-cob *arg.*

Sarah, widow of Joseph Cobb of Yarmouth, died in 1792, aged 96.

END OF VOL. I.



VOL. I.  
CORRIGENDA.

- p. v., l. 8—for "Cistercians" read "Carmelites."  
p. viii., l. 13—after "hic" insert ":"—for "abiter" read "Avite." }  
*(Both in some copies only.)*  
p. 53, l. 17—for "Camil" read "Camel."  
p. 78, l. 4—for "congruously" read "incongruously."  
p. 80, l. 8—for "latter" read "later."  
p. 83, l. 19—for "Inverness" read "Inveresk."  
p. 132, n. †, l. 2—for "Soubriquet" read "Sobriquet."  
p. 170, n. †, l. 11—for "once a week" read "one week."  
p. 207, l. 27—for "Instead" read "Irstead."  
p. 209, l. 4—for "Coyme" read "Cayme."  
p. 246, n. \*, l. 1—for "Gooch" read "Cooch."  
p. 275, n. †, l. 1—for "1785" read "1809."  
p. 283, n. \*, l. 1—for "first" read "second."  
" " l. 3—for "second" read "first."  
" " n. †, l. 1—for "Siliias" read "Lillias."  
p. 335, l. 17—for "Charlotte" read "Louisa."  
p. 361, n. \*, l. 1—for "az" read "arg."  
p. 397, l. 20—for "Bryant" read "Bryant Donkin."  
p. 397, last line—for "silver" read "glass."

